











# MILLWOOD

## A FAMILY TREE

A Partial History of the Descendants of  
JOHN ELLIS, OF REHOBOTH, MASS.

Mainly comprising that of his Grandson,  
BENJAMIN ELLIS JR., OF MILLWOOD, O.,  
and his Descendants

ALLIED NAMES: ELLIS, INGALLS, BALLOU

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BY F. O. ELLIS (72)

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SWAMPSCOTT, MASS.  
1909

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## Dedication.

TO **ALBERT ELLIS**, ESQ., MY BELOVED UNCLE, THE LAST  
SURVIVING OF THE CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN AND LOIS  
ELLIS OF MILLWOOD; AND TO MY OWN MOTHER,  
MRS. **MARGARET ELLIS**, WHO BECAME A  
WORTHY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY IN  
1844, AND YET LINGERS ON THE  
SHORES OF TIME; IS THIS MEMO-  
RIAL AFFECTIONATELY  
INSCRIBED.

Heil  
Mrs. G. W. McClung  
Nov 30, 1902





## PREFATORY.

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Everybody who writes a book, presents an excuse for doing so. This little volume is the result of the writer's interest in the subject. It is nothing to be ashamed of, to believe that "blood is thicker than water." We confess to a reverence for those who have gone before; an honoring of the fathers.

The matter of collecting and publishing what could be learned of the within Ellis family was discussed and even begun more than twenty years ago, but suspended because of other duties. Most of those then interested are now fallen asleep. Many things are lost, but perhaps some are gained, by this delay.

Much of the work of tracing family lines is now done by expert genealogists; but as this involves money outlay, we were obliged to forego such assistance. Fortunately, however, the increased interest in early New England history has put a large collection of information in many libraries and historical rooms; so that what would once have been exceedingly difficult is now comparatively easy.

All who for any reason undertake a work like this, find it difficult to secure information by correspondence, and we have been no exception. It would have been a pleasure to make the range of facts much more comprehensive; but instead of regretting, we are rather disposed to be thankful for the measure of favor that has been accorded us; the humble results of which are now given to the present generation and their posterity.

E.

SWAMPSCOTT, MASS., 1909.

## The Ellis Name in America.

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This is one of the most common names of the present day in many parts of the United States. It is frequent in England and Wales; and the largest published genealogy of the name in New England, is that of a Welsh boy, Richard Ellis, who landed in Massachusetts about 1717. It reveals no connection with the Ellis line in this book. In France, the name is developed from fleur-de-lis (flower of the lily), and Huguenot Ellises are now found in this country.

The large preponderance of ancestry of the name in America is doubtless English, and is found among the first settlers. At an early date there were many Ellises in several Massachusetts towns, and probably in other colonies.

The spelling of the name was formerly greatly varied, especially by others than the Ellises themselves. A few of these variations yet survive, as Allis and Eeles; but with the diffusion of books and schooling, these have mostly disappeared.

There has evidently been no comprehensive and thorough genealogical work yet done for the Ellis name in the United States. Probably it never will be; and yet it is manifest from the few researches we have been able to make, that therein is an exceedingly interesting field for one who has talent and means with which to do the subject justice. A sizable genealogical work, such as many we have examined, often requires years of painstaking labor, travel and research; and the expenditure of many thousands of dollars.

# ELLIS FAMILY HISTORY.

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## THE INGALLS FAMILY.

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An essential feature of the earlier history of the Ellis family herein recorded, is the connection therewith of the Ingalls name in New England. A brief sketch is herewith given, bringing it up to the time when it was joined to that of Ellis. Since it antedates the Ellis name, it is here first given.

(1) EDMUND INGALLS, born in Skirbeck, England, with his brother Francis, came in Governor Endicott's colony which settled Salem, Mass., in 1628; two years before the founding of Boston. A year later, the two brothers, with two other families, left the Salem community and located about four miles westward, within the confines of what was by the Indians called Saugus or Saugust, but which was later named Lynn by the new comers, in honor of King's Lynn in England. A part of the territory retains the name Saugus, being a separate town; while Lynn is now a city of about eighty thousand population. The eastern part of Lynn was a district known by the Indian name of Musqui-omsk-ut; which in later years became Swampscott, and in 1852 was separated from Lynn, and became a town of itself.

In this eastern or Swampscott district of Lynn the Ingalls brothers established themselves. By trade they were tanners, and evidently they not long afterward began business, by the side of a brook not far from the sea shore, on a spot about fifty rods from

where the writer of this sketch has lived since 1873. The location and history of the tannery is said to have been forgotten for a century, but at some time later than 1800, the old vats were found by some plowing or digging; and eventually the whole history was recovered and written up in the annals of Lynn. The remains of the tan-vats were visible as late as 1840.

Edmund Ingalls was evidently a man of good repute and influence in the new community, and left an estate of several hundred pounds; which was a relatively large amount for those days. He was drowned in the Saugus river in 1648, by the breaking of a bridge, while on his way to Boston; and his heirs afterward recovered damages from the town. He is supposed to have been not far from fifty years of age.

Edmund's son, JOHN INGALLS (2), born in England in 1625, lived in Lynn until about 1685. He married ELIZABETH BARRETT of Salem, and removed to Rehoboth, Mass., and lived to the age of ninety-seven.

The Rehoboth settlement was not many miles from the Providence colony of Roger Williams; and bearing in mind the occasion of the Providence settlement, and the meaning of Rehoboth—"room"—(Gen. 26:22), it is easy to believe that a desire for religious freedom was the occasion for the founding of Rehoboth. We do not know that any history or tradition tells us of the religious convictions of John Ingalls, but that he left behind him that part of the country wherein a little later the witchcraft delusion flourished, and where Quakers and Baptists were persecuted,

and went to a place so significant in name, and so near to Williams' settlement, is at least suggestive.

It is said that at the time of the Revolutionary War there was nearly a hundred descendants of John Ingalls in and about Rehoboth, about ninety years after he went there with his family. Many of these served in the army, and after the war there was a great exodus to "the west" (then New York) so that today hardly one of the name remains.

EDMUND INGALLS (3), son of John, was born in Lynn, 1682; died in Rehoboth about 1750.

EBENEZER INGALLS (4), son of Edmund, born in Rehoboth, 1711; died there 1771.

HENRY INGALLS (5), son of Ebenezer, b. Rehoboth 1738; in 1761 married SIBYL CARPENTER; and about 1764 removed northward across the state to Richmond, in the edge of New Hampshire, and near the Vermont line as finally established.

The children of this family were:

- (6) ELIZABETH INGALLS, b. 1762; m. JAMES COOK, Richmond.
- (7) MEHITABEL INGALLS, b. 1764; m. JAMES BALLOU, Richmond, 1784.
- (8) RUTH INGALLS, b. 1767; m. BENJAMIN ELLIS, Richmond, 1785.
- (9) RUFUS INGALLS, b. 1769.
- (10) EBENEZER INGALLS, b. 1771; m. MARY MAN, Richmond.
- (11) SIBYL INGALLS, b. 1774.
- (12) LUCY INGALLS, b. 1777.
- (13) ALPHA (Alva?) INGALLS, b. 1780.
- (14) HENRY INGALLS, b. 1783; died young.
- (15) SEBRA INGALLS, b. 1785.

Henry, Edmund and Benjamin Ingalls appear early in the affairs of Richmond; and Henry had recorded a purchase of land there in 1763. As his second child was born in Rehoboth in 1764, he had evidently been in Richmond previous to removal of his family thither, which seems to have occurred about the fall of 1764; for he participated in Richmond's first town meeting, March, 1765.

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### THE JOHN ELLIS FAMILY.

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In the Rehoboth settlement we have first mention of JOHN ELLIS (16), who was married in that town to EUNICE MILLARD in 1738. To them were born:

(17) ANNA ELLIS, 1739; m. JERE FISHER, Rehoboth, 1761.

(18) JONATHAN ELLIS, 1744; m. SUSAN MORSE, Rehoboth, 1768. One son recorded, William; Rehoboth, 1769.

John's wife Eunice died suddenly, July 3, 1749. The following year, 1750, he married MARY HORTON of Rehoboth (a widow with two daughters), and to them were born:

(19) MARTIN ELLIS, 1753; m. MARY KINGSLEY, Richmond, N. H., 1777.

(20) JOHN ELLIS, 1755; m. RACHEL MARSH, Richmond, 1774.

(21) MARTHA ELLIS, 1756.

(22) REBECCA ELLIS, 1758; m. HUGH BULLOCK, Royalston.

(23) LOIS ELLIS, 1760.

*Mary Martin Horton - widow of Simeon H.  
B. 9-10-1723*

*Daughter of Edward Martin of Rehoboth  
P. 114, Martin Genealogy by Henry J. Mar*

(24) BENJAMIN ELLIS, 1762; m. RUTH INGALLS,  
Richmond, 1785.

(25) OLIVE ELLIS, 1765.

(26) SABRA ELLIS, 1767.

All but the last one were born in Rehoboth; she was born in Richmond, showing that the family removed about 1766. John Ellis was all of twenty years older than Henry Ingalls, and the Ingalls children were all born in Richmond, except the first two.

The ancestry of John Ellis of Rehoboth is at present not determined. There was a John Ellis in the Plymouth colony, who evidently came from Leyden on the second voyage of the Mayflower, and a John Ellis Jr., is also mentioned in the early records, and was evidently his son. The descendants on this line have not as yet been clearly traced, but as there was a large increase of the name in and near Plymouth, it seems to have sprung from this stock, and John of Rehoboth, a few miles away, would appear most naturally to belong to that family. He seems to have been the first Ellis in Rehoboth, where he married Eunice Millard in 1738; the probable date of his birth being about 1715-17. In the same town in 1746, Hester Ellis was married to Joseph Lake, and in 1751 Mary Ellis was married to Peter Millard. These may have been John's sisters, and none of them were born there, nor were any other of the name Ellis until John's children.

Little can be gathered concerning the Ellis and Ingalls families after coming to Richmond. John Ellis had land, and the original dwelling was yet standing in 1882; which was successively owned by his son, Deacon Martin Ellis, and then by Martin's son Hosea,

and then by Henry Bullock, who was probably grandson of Martin. On this land is the Ellis burying place, having about twenty graves, supposed to include those of John and Mary Ellis.

We do not learn of an Ingalls burying place in the town, and it is apparent that most if not all bearing the name emigrated. Henry Ingalls was town clerk from 1766 to 1792, indicating unusual fitness. He was also a Justice of the Peace for a long period. In 1785, a neighborhood in another part of the town sought the appointment for one of their number, but after a heated contest, Ingalls was again appointed. He removed to Worcester, N. Y., about 1808, and died there, 1811.

Immediately after the conflict at Lexington and Concord, on April 19, 1775, troops were enlisted in New Hampshire under Col. Ephraim Doolittle, of which regiment a company was raised in Richmond by Capt. Oliver Capron. Both Henry Ingalls and John Ellis joined Capron's company on May 5th, and Ingalls appears as sergeant and Ellis as private on the muster roll. The regiment was commissioned on June 12th, mustering seven companies. On June 17th, at Bunker Hill, both the colonel and lieutenant colonel were absent, and command of the regiment devolved upon Maj. Willard Moore, who was killed, together with three captains and three privates of the regiment; but none were of Capron's company. The enlistment for this service seems to have been for three months, according to the pay roll.

An appeal to sustain the resistance to Great Britain, by the New Hampshire Committee of Safety, was responded to by the signatures of a large number of



the men of Richmond, among whom were John Ellis and Henry and Edmund Ingalls.

This response is understood to have been equivalent to a pledge to bear arms if necessary; but several citizens, owing to conscientious convictions, could not thus respond; and signed a paper protesting against the principle of armed resistance. Among these was Martin Ellis (19), eldest son of John by his second wife, and who was then about twenty-two. Most of these protestants are believed to have been Quakers, of whom there was a society in the town; but Martin was a Baptist, and a deacon in that church for many years until his death in 1832. He became a man of marked influence, but evidently rendered no military service, nor do the records show that he ever held public office. Deacon Ellis, as he was always called, had a large family, of whose descendants we have at present little account, only that two of the sons removed to Vermont. The names are, Sylvanus, Benjamin, Lucy, Sabra, James, Daniel, Polly, Martin, Sarah, Hosea and Candace. James was killed by being thrown from a wagon at the age of twenty-eight.

In response to the call for troops for the relief of Ticonderoga in 1777, we find Capron's company with Henry Ingalls as lieutenant, and John Ellis as corporal, with James Cook as a private, probably the same Cook who afterward married Ingalls' eldest daughter. In the battle at Bennington and at Stillwater, Ingalls was lieutenant and Ellis was sergeant, but we do not learn how long was this term of enlistment. In the action at Bennington, August 16, 1777, Ingalls was wounded, though probably not severely. It is stated

that the sound of the guns was heard distinctly in Richmond, a distance of nearly forty miles.

It is apparent that John Ellis's eldest son Jonathan (18), who was about thirty-one at the breaking out of the war, did not enlist in Massachusetts; but as there is no further account of him in Rehoboth, and the name appears among the New Hampshire volunteers, it is fairly certain that he had followed his father thither.

The names also of Benjamin and Henry Ellis appear among the enlistments from Richmond in a Winchester company, the town adjoining Richmond, and the names make it seem possible they were brothers or cousins of John of Rehoboth, but they were pretty certainly sons of one Samuel Ellis of Medway, Mass. In Winchester also, in 1779, one "John Ellis of Richmond" enlisted, and "deserted on February 1, 1780." This seems almost certainly to have been young John Ellis (20), who married in 1774, and has four children recorded: Eunice, Edward Martin and John. He is not spoken of as "John Ellis, Jr." as would seem natural to do, but his father may have died before that date. No further trace of him appears, as we have of his elder brother, Deacon Martin Ellis. The Benjamin Ellis above mentioned was a corporal soon after his enlistment at the age of twenty, and was successively promoted to be lieutenant, captain and colonel. Desertions from the service were quite frequent, but many afterward rejoined their regiments, and we have no intimation of any being punished. The continental currency in which bounties and wages were paid, became so depreciated in two or three years as to

be almost worthless, and no doubt many deserted to go to relief of their families. A petition to the provincial legislature of New Hampshire by the officers and enlisted men, reciting the distress of their families and imploring relief, is a pathetic memorial of that time.

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THE BALLOU FAMILY.

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Since the Ellis, Ingalls and Ballou families became connected in Richmond, it seems fitting that we should here give what information we have that relates to the Ballou name.

At a date not at hand, a minister's son, of the name Ballou, went from Cumberland, R. I., and settled in or near Richmond. He was the father of Hosea Ballou, the eminent Universalist clergyman. A cousin to Hosea, JAMES BALLOU (28), a young man, followed his uncle to New Hampshire and settled in Richmond about 1782. Here he married MEHITABEL INGALLS (7) in 1784; and here he died in 1808. The children of whom we have account are :

(28) JAMES BALLOU JR., b. 1794; m. REBECCA ELLIS, Zanesville, O.

(29) HENRY BALLOU, b. 1796;

(30) MEHITABLE BALLOU, b. 1792; m. ABRAM INGALLS, Hebron, O.

(31) RUFUS BALLOU, b. 1797; died young.

(32) ELIZABETH BALLOU, b. 1801; m. ABRAM GARFIELD, Newburg, O.

This family removed to Worcester, N. Y., in 1809.

It is known that Henry Ingalls went there about 1808, and died 1811. Others of his family had probably preceded him, and his daughter, widow Mehitabel Ballou, followed with her children. The disappearance of the name Ingalls from Richmond would indicate a general emigration.

In Worcester there lived at this time a farmer named Thomas Garfield, to whom a son, Abram, had been born in 1799. The Ballous and Garfields were neighbors for about five years; and then widow Ballou removed to Zanesville, Ohio, in 1814. In 1819 young Abram Garfield went to Ohio, and doubtless visited the Ballous at Zanesville; he being twenty and Elizabeth eighteen at the time. He located and opened up a farm at Newburg, near Cleveland, and in 1821 went to Zanesville and married Eliza (as she was evidently then called), and their fourth child was James A. Garfield, b. 1831.

When the future President was a Congressman, in 1874, he visited with his mother at her birthplace in Richmond, and found several of the Ballou name, which yet remains at last accounts, together with others with which the Ballou, Ingalls and Ellis families intermarried in the early days of the town.

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### THE FIRST BENJAMIN ELLIS FAMILY.

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We come now to the second generation on the Ellis line, "to whom come these presents, greeting."

BENJAMIN ELLIS (24), son of John (16), born in Rehoboth 1762, was about four years old on the removal to Richmond, and about thirteen at the

beginning of the Revolution. At the age of twenty-three, he married, 1785, RUTH INGALLS (8), b. 1767; third daughter of Henry Ingalls, town clerk, who recorded the first and second children, born in Richmond. And as we know that at some time they removed from Richmond, we are able to fix the date at about 1788, for their grandfather Ingalls, the town clerk, certainly recorded all the children born in Richmond.

Children:

- (33) HENRY ELLIS, 1786; evidently died young.
- (34) RUFUS INGALLS ELLIS, 1787.
- (35) MARTIN ELLIS, 1789.
- (36) BENJAMIN ELLIS JR., 1791; m. LOIS PALMER, Watertown, 1815.
- (37) SILAS ELLIS, about 1794; m. ELINOR DICKERSON, Grand View, Ohio, 1817.
- (38) REBECCA ELLIS, about 1797; m. JAMES BALLOU JR., Zanesville.
- (39) SIBYL ELLIS, b. 1799; m. HENRY BABCOCK.
- (40) DIANA ELLIS, about 1802; m. STINSON BURRIS, Matamoras.
- (41) SABRA ELLIS, about 1805; m. ANDREW WELKER.
- (42) HENRY ELLIS (2nd), b. 1809; not married.

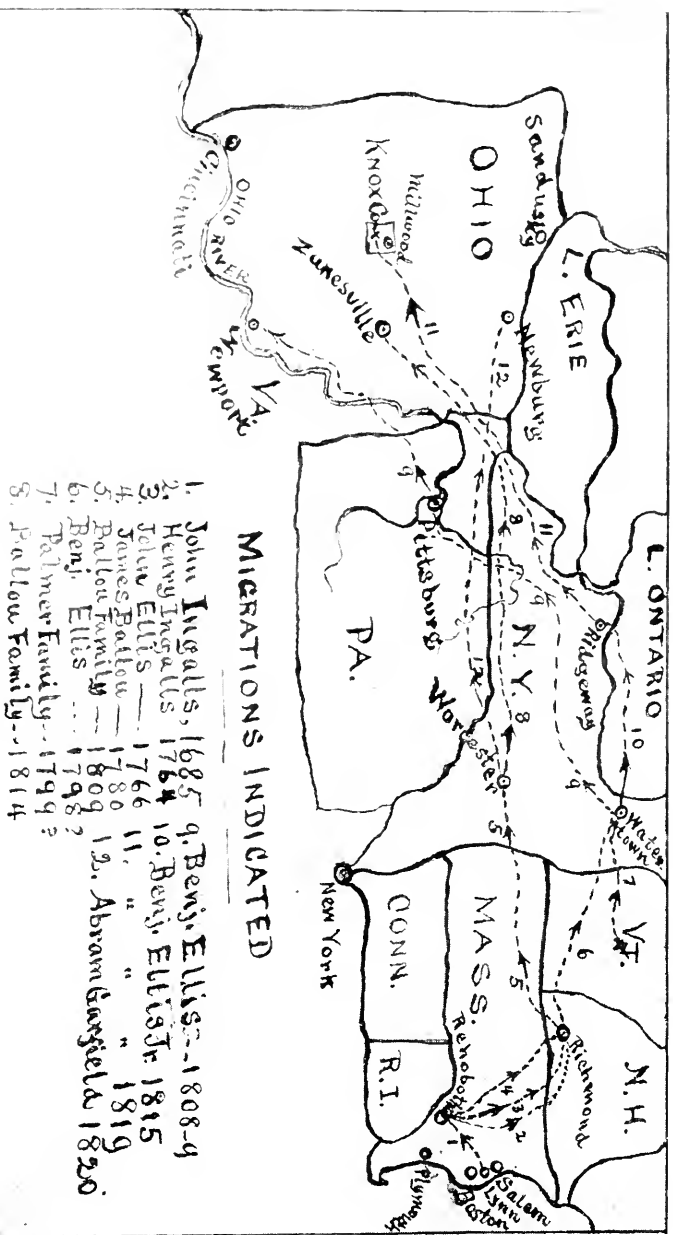
Four of the dates "about" are conjectural; also the *order* of those four names. They are here arranged according to probability.

This family may have first gone to Vermont, and thence at a later date to Watertown, N. Y.; from which the family tradition says they came to Newport, O. Of this we can find no trace in the Jefferson

County, N. Y., history. There came into that county about 1798, two brothers, Lyman and Marvel Ellis, who were enterprising men, and gave name to the town of Ellisburg, some miles from Watertown. Both were fifers in the Revolutionary army in Massachusetts, but no connection with the John Ellis family is known. They were joined later by Caleb Ellis of Massachusetts, a descendant of Richard Ellis of Ashfield, Mass. We once heard Martin (35) and Benjamin Jr. (36) speak of Ellisburg, in 1853; but nothing was mentioned of any relationship there. But the latter had named a son Lyman, in 1837, and it is evident that the name came from Ellisburg, for it is not found in any of the preceding Ellis or Ingalls families.

Of the family life and fortune of Benjamin and Ruth Ellis in Watertown we have at hand no information. They may have lived there several years, and on their removal to Ohio, the elder sons, Rufus and Martin remained, so far as ascertained. The Palmer family came there from Vermont during that time, and at a later date the marriage there of Benjamin Ellis Jr., and Lois Palmer, gave to the world the posterity with which these pages have most to do.

It is not apparent that the first Benjamin Ellis accumulated any property in Watertown, but it is evident that the children had at least a tolerable schooling for those days, as is manifest in hand writing and spelling of some of them; and that two or more of the daughters became teachers in Ohio. The same may be said concerning the writing of Lois Palmer, and indicates merit in the schools of Watertown.







Concerning the migration from Watertown to Newport, there are no details as to manner or route of the first part of the journey. It seems probable that they embarked on a sailing vessel at Sacket's Harbor and landed in what was then Genessee county, and crossed the state southward perhaps to Salamanca, on the Allegheny river. Our first definite information is, that they came down the river to Pittsburg on a flat-boat. While stopping there for supplies, they were in some manner exposed to small-pox, and soon after their arrival at Newport they all broke out with it.\* Through the kindness of their neighbors, they were quarantined in a secluded house, and eventually all recovered. The date of this migration was either 1808 or 1809.

The family settled on a small tract of land in Newport, evidently a rented place. We are not able to gather information as to whether farming or some other occupation was depended upon. It seems probable that their circumstances were not encouraging, for not long afterward young Benjamin (36), who was about eighteen on their arrival, shouldered his axe and walked and worked his way back to New York; evidently to Watertown, to be with or near his elder brothers, who had remained. There is a remembrance that he was accustomed to make maple sugar in Newport with the early arrival of the season, and then go north with the advancing sun; earning wages with whom he could, in the same work, as far as Lake

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\*A tradition of this voyage is to the effect that "their intended destination was Kentucky, but the father's illness was so severe that when they came to where is now Newport, they were compelled to land, and took possession of an abandoned cabin."

Erie. He may have done this for a year or two, before he went back to New York; but he seems to have been there at work by the month, within perhaps two years of the time of the family migration.

There is a tradition that the elder Benjamin Ellis (24) was not as robust as some of his descendants; and had a tendency to weak lungs. He was by nature and habit a great hunter, and it is thought that on one of his frequent expeditions after game, his exposure developed consumption; from which he died, about 1811-12; and was buried in the cemetery at Newport.

News of the father's death and the mother's destitute circumstances soon reached young Benjamin, and with his earnings in his pocket, reinforced perhaps by help from Rufus and Martin, he walked again from Watertown to Newport, not less than 400 miles. The widowed mother, Ruth Ingalls Ellis, was soon relieved of her distresses and her debts paid.

It may well be imagined that young Benjamin's return to her relief was a most providential event to his mother; and the filial devotion shown by him is in full accord with his character in all his after life; and an example commended to all who inherit the name or bear any kinship thereto.

Benjamin leased a tract of land for his mother, and built on it a cabin home for her and the children remaining. Silas (37) may have helped him, but there is no mention made of him at the time. He was probably from eighteen to twenty, and was likely away from the family, at his trade as mason. Sibyl, Diana, Rebecca, Sabra and Henry, were probably yet with the mother. If the house was built in 1812, as seems probable, the age of Sibyl would at the time

be thirteen, and that of Henry, three. The dates and order of the others, it will be remembered, are not definitely known.

But it was not the intention of Benjamin to remain in Ohio, for he shortly turned again to New York, as before, it is said, on foot. He was now about twenty-one, and it is suspected that there was at this time an attraction for him there among the Palmer daughters, or elsewhere in Watertown; and Lois being then but fourteen, it hardly seems likely she was the one. As now appears certain, at some time after the battle at Sacket's Harbor in 1813, Benjamin enlisted in the Federal army, for frontier defense; and served until the close of the war. He is said to have received two patents for land, or "land-warrants," as a bounty for military service; but to the writer this is not certain. No recollections of his army life are recorded, but he received and sold one patent about 1856; which doubtless represented the 1813 enlistment.

It is known that on being mustered out at Sandusky, Ohio, early in 1815, he again walked back to New York; and it is not recorded whether or no he went down to Newport to see his mother and others of her family yet remaining. And if it be that some "girl he left behind him" had been married in his absence, he found another as good or better, for in December of that year is recorded his marriage at Watertown to Lois Palmer; she being at the time seventeen and a half years old, and he just twenty-four.

## THE PALMER FAMILY.

Not much detail of the family from which came LOIS PALMER ELLIS is now obtainable. A transcript of the family record is herewith given, as found in the Benjamin Ellis Bible, where it was written by Andrew, presumably at some time before his mother Lois's death, while he was living with her, 1862-64. All recollections agree that the Palmers were a Vermont family, who removed from thence probably soon after 1800, to Watertown, N. Y., where the first Benjamin Ellis family is thought to have lived for some years. Since Lois has been spoken of by her children as "a Vermont girl," it is tolerably evident that she and all the other children were born there. Some of these older ones were married and gone before her recollection; all which was no doubt in Vermont. Hence the number of the family coming to Watertown can only be conjectured.

The date of birth of the parents is not given, but it is fair to place that of the father about 1752, and the mother's about 1754, as they both died "in their nineties," and the date of death of each is given :

- (43) ELIJAH PALMER } married in 1776.  
 (44) MOLLIE HORTON }

Children: ESTHER PALMER, born 1776;  
 MARY, 1779; AARON, 1781; LUCY, 1784;  
 JOHN, 1786; EUNICE, 1788; SARAH, 1791;  
 BETSY, 1793; ROXANA, 1796; LOIS, 1798;  
 IRA, 1804.

Of the above it is known that

IRA PALMER died at Watertown, 1823.

(43) ELIJAH PALMER died 1844.

(44) MARY (MOLLIE) PALMER died 1847.

AARON PALMER died 1849.

(45) LOIS (ELLIS) died 1864.

There seems no reason to doubt that the parents ended their lives at Watertown, but the location of the children is unknown. Aaron was somewhere in New York, as remembered. He was a prominent Mason, and Lois was so prejudiced against Masonry, that it was with difficulty she could speak kindly of him. This was probably an outcome of the excitement attendant upon the Morgan episode of seventy or more years ago. One of the daughters was married to Asa Cassidy, in New York, and she and a son visited at the Millwood farm some time later than 1840. Another, whose married name was Daniels, came from the same state at a later date, accompanied by a son, Francis Daniels, and the latter was so popular with the writer's father, that he afterward named his Small Boy for him.

An incident in the early life of Lois has been told, showing the power of association, in matters of the mind. She had been away from home on horseback, and returning through the woods, became lost, though there was good moonlight. After uncertain riding for some time, she came to a clearing and farm buildings entirely strange to her. While she was wondering where she could be, one of the cattle or sheep in the barnyard moved, and a familiar bell tinkled. Instantly everything changed and came into place; it was her father's farm and her own home!

Lois was fifteen years of age at the time of the battle at Sacket's Harbor in 1813. We do not know

just the number of miles it was from her home, but she used to tell of hearing the booming of the guns in that conflict; and it must have been a time of great fear and excitement. It was evidently her one vivid recollection of that war. And we can imagine how the people must have gathered from the country for miles around, to see what they could of the battle. It seems more than likely that young Benjamin Ellis was not far away, as we have noted, and that he enlisted for service in the army at about this time.

Leaving for the present the narrative concerning Benjamin and Lois Ellis, we return to the widowed mother at Newport, but find few details of her life at that place. She is said to have become quite skilled and successful as a neighborhood doctor, and must have been held in considerable esteem, for she was spoken of as very useful in that capacity. But the children were growing up, and were soon married, or found homes and a living elsewhere; Silas being married in 1817, and probably Sibyl also not much later. Diana and Sabra may have been also taking care of themselves ere long, as we learn that the mother finally removed to, or near to Zanesville, "to be near her brother," and that "she had with her only her son Henry, who was about nine years old at that time." This fixes the date as 1818; Henry (42) being nine in November of that year.

It is tolerably certain that widow Ruth Ellis had no brother at or near Zanesville, but that her sister, widow Mehitabel Ballou, is meant. She had come to that place from New York in 1814. The sisters Mehitabel and Ruth had a brother Ebenezer Ingalls (10), who came to Ohio and settled at Hebron, Lick-

ing county, and died there. He may have lived first at Zanesville, and that may have been the reason why the Ballous came there, but inquiries have failed to discover any memory or tradition of Ingalls relatives at Zanesville; whereas the Ballou cousins were known to the Benjamin Ellis family of Millwood. But there was intimacy between the families of Ebenezer and Mehitable, for Abram Ingalls, son of Ebenezer, married young Mehitable Ballou, his cousin, at Zanesville; and their descendants are scattered through the middle and farther west. And James Ballou at Zanesville, probably as early as 1815, married his cousin Rebecca Ellis of Newport, Ruth's daughter.

We are unable to determine any particulars of widow Ruth's residence at Zanesville; except that "she did not live there long," being soon after killed by lightning; one account says "at the house of a relative," while others have always understood that it was "in her own home." It seems likely she was keeping house to herself in a dwelling owned by one of the Ballous; this would satisfy both statements. She is said to have been sewing near the open door or fireplace, perhaps between the two, and was just rising from her chair, rolling up her work, with her long scissors in her hand, when a flash came and she fell dead. It must have been a bolt of great power, as it was told that "it seemed as if every bone in her body was broken." She was somewhere near fifty-two years of age at her death.

This was the end of the home life of the first Benjamin Ellis family, as such; probably about ten years after coming to the state. Since Henry was then the only child with the mother, he is supposed

to have been cared for by Rebecca his married sister, and others of the family as they established homes of their own. There are circumstances that indicate his having lived with Rebecca Ballou (38), Silas Ellis (37), and Diana Burris (40); but more particularly with the latter.

The sisters, Diana, Sibyl and Sabra Ellis are traditionally remembered as unusually handsome women. Diana was almost remarkable, on account of the length and abundance of her hair, which easily reached the floor when she sat in a chair and let it down. If we are rightly informed, her husband, Stinson Burris, was a farmer in Matamoras; and the house which he must have built some seventy or more years ago is yet standing, and occupied by a family which has become wealthy from the petroleum now produced in that region.

HENRY ELLIS (42) was never married, but became a teacher and continued in that work until his death. He was also a poet of no mean ability, so it was said by his old acquaintances; but none of his writing is now obtainable. A verse inscribed on his headstone, doubtless prepared by himself, indicates his intelligence as to Bible teaching, whatever may have been his particular understanding of a future state. The entire inscription is as follows:

“ Henry Ellis, died July 1, 1852; aged 42 years,  
7 mos. 17 days.

Here to thy bosom, Mother Earth,  
Take back in peace what thou hast given;  
And all that is of Heavenly birth,  
O God, recall in peace to Heaven.”

Henry became a painter of portraits and scenery,



and must have shown considerable talent in that line, as he seems to have been best remembered by his paintings. We have not learned whether he ever profited financially by his art; probably, however, not to any great extent. The lack of wealth and culture in his day and neighborhood could hardly have furnished him with a remunerative patronage; so it seems likely he painted mostly from his heart, because he loved to do so.

As intimated previously, Henry's home seems to have been more particularly with his sister, Diana Burris. As a consequence, it is remembered that "her house was full of pictures," something that could not have been common in those days. One of these is especially remembered, having been seen by several of the present generation. It was painted upon the plastered wall of Diana's house; over the fire-place mantel in the main living room, or parlor, as it might now be called. It depicted a hunting scene, in which a deer was a central figure, just fired upon or fallen, and an Indian hunter springing from behind a tree to secure his game; the whole said to be very spirited and realistic. It may have been a memory of some experience told by his own father, and repeated to him by his mother, or possibly he had himself witnessed it in early days. And the picture is yet in existence, we are told, but covered with wall-paper by the present occupants of the house.

A portrait of Diana and little daughter, painted by Henry, is in possession of a grand-daughter of Sibyl Ellis Babcock, sister of Diana. It would seem likely that other of his pictures are extant, among the Burris descendants, but of these we have no knowledge.

Henry probably taught school most of the time for about twenty years; and we may suppose that one of his poetic and artistic temperament would be likely an idealist in the conduct of his school. Of that there has reached us no tradition; but in making inquiries in the vicinity where he taught sixty years before, a man told us he used to go to his school when a very small boy, and too young to be a pupil. He remembered going "because he liked to;" and the master would put him to sleep on a bench with his overcoat for the boy's bed. This memory would indicate a kind heart toward children, and a reason why he chose teaching as his calling. He probably might easily have been a sculptor, for we saw on a sandstone boulder near where his brother Silas lived, the figure of a willow tree in relief, and a lamb at the side of it, which he made with the point of a common pickaxe. Its history is well authenticated, and the quality of the carving as good as would be done by a professional stone-cutter with standard tools. Its date is unknown; probably earlier than 1840.

In the neighborhood of his school on the high lands overlooking the Ohio in Grand View township, Henry Ellis purchased a plot of land, about 1850, which he gave to the people as a burying ground. He selected his own place, in the center of the plot, between two great oaks; and was himself the first person to rest in the dedicated ground. The oaks and other trees have long since disappeared; and one may now look far over the hills of his native county and state, and away across the yellow Ohio into what was in his day Old Virginia. A house of worship was in later years erected on adjoining land, and is now regularly

occupied; a landmark resulting from the benefaction of Henry Ellis.

Henry manifestly inherited a tendency to pulmonary ailment, and probably anticipated early death. We have no particulars, except that he died of hemorrhage, at the home of James Dailey, where he had lived for some years possibly, in the neighborhood of his school.

Of SABRA ELLIS (40), we have imperfect account, not knowing date of birth or death. She came into Knox county and taught school in the neighborhood of her brother Benjamin, and eventually was married there to ANDREW WELKER. Her life thenceforth was said to have been one of poverty and trial, owing to the drinking habits of her husband, and she died comparatively young. Her two sons, Oliver and Emmett Welker, went to Missouri when young, and have not since been known in Ohio.

We have been shown a tract of land where the Welkers once lived, now one of the most fertile in the county, which Andrew traded off for a shot-gun. It was probably at that time, however, little better than a swamp, and may have cost him but a trifle.

SIBYL ELLIS (39), was nine or ten years old when the family came to Newport. It was said that she also taught school in Knox county, but of this we are not certain. It is rather apparent that she was married at Newport, and not long after settled in Knox county on land adjoining Benjamin Ellis, as is thought, as early as 1823. Her husband was HENRY BABCOCK, who had been a whaler, voyaging from New Bedford, Mass.: on trips of one to three years. For some reason he abandoned the sea, and followed the cooperating business thenceforth.

At one time in Babcock's whaling life, he was one of a boat's crew that rowed alongside of a mighty whale, and at the same moment a harpoon was struck into his vitals. Instantly the monster sprang clear of the water, bellowing in agony; and Babcock put his hand up against his mountain-like side to push away the boat, and his arm was paralyzed for a time by the jar of the bellow. Either this whale or another of the catch had a mouth so great that the captain had his jaws propped open, and upon his enormous tongue was placed a platform or table, around which twelve men sat and ate their dinner! And this is not a "fish story," for Babcock was a man of veracity, as remembered by the Ellis family. How he came to be a pioneer in Ohio is not known, but the State got a good citizen and Sibyl a good husband by it. There seems to have been a strong attachment between Babcock and his brother-in-law Benjamin Ellis, for they lived in close touch as neighbors for nearly thirty years; first in Harrison township, and later in Howard, near Millwood, from 1835.

Henry and Sibyl Babcock are said to have lived to good age, and are buried in Licking county; probably near Fallsburg, where their son Charles lived for many years, and died in his eighties. Like his father, he was a cooper; and he had a considerable family, of which we have located but one, Mr. H. E. Babcock, Tunnel Hill, Ohio.

The children of Henry and Sibyl Babcock were CHARLES, as mentioned above; PHEBE, who married John Campbell near Millwood, and they both died there; ELECTA, who married Moses Humbert and had one daughter Marietta, who is married to Rev.

J. L. Snyder of Howard, Ohio; and DIANA, who married — DeVolt, near Millwood.

DIANA ELLIS (41), was married in Matamoras to STINSON BURRIS. Their children, so far as ascertained, were :

1. WILLIAM BURRIS, who was in the Union army.
2. STINSON BURRIS, JR., also in the Union army.

One of the brothers was yet living quite recently; whereabouts of their children not ascertained.

3. ELIZABETH BURRIS, (m. SHEETS); had two daughters, HELEN and ANNA.

4. GABRILLA BURRIS, (m. ANKROM); had one dau. (m. COCHRAN).

5. ELLEN BURRIS, (m. HOLLAND).

Some of these latter reside in or near Matamoras.

RUFUS INGALLS ELLIS (34) seems to have married and remained in New York; probably near Watertown. No account of his family has been obtained; but one De Los Ellis came to Grandview and married his cousin Ruth Ingalls Ellis, daughter of Silas Ellis (37); and he is presumed to have been a son of Rufus. He may however, have been a son of Martin (35), in addition to those next mentioned.

MARTIN ELLIS (35) married in New York, and is known to have had three children; HENRY INGALLS ELLIS, ELIZA ELLIS and BENJAMIN ELLIS: the latter being lame or crippled. These all came to Ohio, and the first two children remained as noted later.

SILAS ELLIS (37) settled in Grandview, on the Ohio River, between Matamoras and Newport, and became a mason and contractor. In that place he m., 1817, ELINOR DICKERSON, and nine children were born.

1. CHARLES D. ELLIS, m. PAULINA MORGAN, left 1 son, 1 dau., name and location not ascertained.

Charles D. died of small pox in Cincinnati.

2. WILLIAM MCGEE ELLIS, m. CLARISSA ANKROM. He was like his father, a mason and builder. Children: WILLIAM P. ELLIS, lives in Marietta, O.; MARGARET ELLIS, (m. GREEN); REBECCA ELLIS, (m. WILLIAMSON); and SIBYL ELLIS, (m. RICHARDSON).

3. RUTH INGALLS ELLIS, m. first her cousin, DE LOS ELLIS, and he left one son, CHARLES M. ELLIS of Sedan, Kan. Ruth afterward m. ELMER NAYLOR. In her young days she visited her uncle Benjamin's family at Millwood, and is remembered as a very amiable young lady.

4. MINERVA I. ELLIS, m. J. N. CLINE; living in Garnett, Kan. Has three daughters in same state.

- 5, 6. AURELIUS M. and AURELIA ELLIS, twins. (The latter died young). AURELIUS m. EVALINE MORGAN, descendant of a famous Indian fighter, David Morgan, of the 18th century. Ch.: LEANDER A. ELLIS, further mentioned elsewhere; LAFAYETTE D. ELLIS, Grandview; EVAN W. ELLIS, Frankfort, Ky., who has four sons, names not known. The daughters of Aurelius M. Ellis are Mrs. SARAH E. HUTCHINSON, Grandview, O.; Mrs. MARY WEBBER,

East Liverpool, O.; Mrs. PAULINA J. BARNES, Paterson, N. J.; Mrs. BERTHA P. KIDD, Wellsville, O.

7. SOLON ELLIS, died of cholera, Paducah, Ky., 1853.

8. HENRY M. ELLIS, lives at Garnett, Kan. No account of family. He and Mrs. Cline are at this date the only living children of Silas Ellis (37).

9. A. M. ELLIS, a son, of whom we have no account.

Silas Ellis was a substantial citizen of Grandview, and a man of decided probity and integrity. Like his elder brother Benjamin in Knox County, he was a Justice of the Peace, and also supervisor of highways, and the docket or record books of the two brothers are exceedingly alike, and both yellow with age. Silas was a good deal of a temperance lecturer in school-houses in the time of the Washingtonian movement, and was doubtless influential. His monuments in the construction of foundations, wells and buildings of marked solidity, are yet standing all along his vicinity on both sides of the Ohio. It was with deep feeling that we visited the hewn log house on the bank of the river, where was his home for many years, now crumbling to earth, all except the big block stone fire-place and chimney. If we understood rightly, he became interested in river traffic, and seems to have been with some of his family in Cincinnati in 1849; at which time his wife Elinor died there of cholera. He himself went further west, and died in Syracuse, Mo., in 1861.

Aurelius M. Ellis and wife lived to good age in Grandview township, on the original Dickerson farm, and are buried beside his uncle Henry Ellis (42), the

teacher and painter. Two of their children remain there; a daughter, Mrs. Hutchinson, on the old Dickerson-Ellis homestead, and a son, Lafayette D. Ellis, near by on another farm; both the homes a little way down the river from the old farm of their grandfather Silas. "Lafe" is now the "Squire Ellis" of all that region, as was Silas eighty years ago. All the vicinity, up and down the river is piped and pumped for oil, a wealth undreamed of in the early Ellis days.

LEANDER A. ELLIS, son of Aurelius, b. 1846, early began teaching school over in West Virginia, opposite his birth-place in Grandview. A misfortune lamed him for life, and he became an educator, teaching for more than twenty years, and serving as Superintendent of Schools for Pleasants County. Was married, 1875, to HARRIETT E. FLEMING; engaged in business in Crisp, and later at French Creek, now called Pleasants; being postmaster in both towns, in Pleasants County. He yet resides in the town of Pleasants, and continues business, and also his connection with the educational interests of the county.

Children of above :

1. ARCHIE G. ELLIS, 1876; taught schools in West Virginia and in Arkansas; was then in mercantile life, and later with the Pennsylvania Railroad as accountant; and is now in that capacity with the Baltimore & Ohio at Sistersville, W. Va. Married, 1909, to MAUDE MALLERY of Ashtabula Co., O.

2. HENRY G. ELLIS, 1879; began teaching at eighteen, continuing several years. Then acquired a commercial education and is head accountant for a firm in Sistersville. Married, 1904, to MARY SMITH,



of St. Mary's, W. Va. Two daughters; EVALINE and GLADYS ELLIS.

3. BARN A C. ELLIS, 1882; was plasterer in East Liverpool, Ohio. Also learned architecture, and designed a number of the buildings of that city. Removed, 1909, to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Married IRENE CHRISTY of East Liverpool, 1903; three sons; CLIFFORD L., WILLIAM and HARROLD ELLIS.

4. CHARLES M. ELLIS, 1885; steam engineer at Eagleville, Ohio; formerly in dairying, and sustained an injury that nearly cost him his life. Married FANNIE PRATT of Pleasants county, 1904; three children; EARL, CHARLEY (deceased), and EFFIE ELLIS.

5. BENJAMIN L. ELLIS, 1888; machinist and engineer with Pennsylvania Railroad at Cleveland, Ohio; married 1909 to ISADORE PANGBAUM of Geneva, Ohio.

6. BROOK F. ELLIS, 1897; student, with parents.

This is the banner Ellis family of the present generation. Hats off, everybody, to Mrs. L. A., and all the young Ellis mothers following!

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The foregoing pages cover substantially all information we have concerning other branches of the family than that of Benjamin and Lois Ellis of Millwood. To them and their descendants what follows is mainly devoted.

### THE SECOND BENJAMIN ELLIS FAMILY.

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(36) BENJAMIN ELLIS (Jr.) as previously noted, married LOIS PALMER at Watertown, N. Y., Dec., 1815. Their children were :

- (46) MELISSA ELLIS, 1816; m. AARON EDGELL.
- (47) CHERRILL ELLIS, 1818; m. JOHN BURTNETT.
- (48) ALVA PALMER ELLIS, 1821; m. MARGARET SANDERS, 1844.

- (49) SILAS ELLIS, 1822; m. SOPHIA STENGER.
- (50) ALBERT ELLIS, 1826; m. SARAH H. ENCELL.
- (51) HENRY ELLIS, 1828; died 1850.
- (52) BENJAMIN ELLIS, 1830; died 1838.
- (53) ANDREW ELLIS, 1835; married three times.
- (54) LYMAN ELLIS, 1837; m. ELIZA J. GRAHAM.
- (55) LUTHER AUGUSTUS ELLIS, 1840; died 1861.

Soon after the marriage of Benjamin and Lois, they "went West;" but not at this time to Ohio. Leaving Watertown, they came probably by a lake vessel to a point in what is now Orleans County, N. Y.; although at that time it was included in Genessee County. Thence a few miles inland they came to Ridgeway, and located upon forty acres of dense forest land.

It seems almost certain that on his several journeys on foot between Ohio and New York, Benjamin had been impressed by the quality of the land in this "beech country" or "Genessee country" as they usually called it.

Here began the home-building of these hardy pioneers. Their married life lasted something more than forty-two years, and was characterized by peace, industry, and in their latter days, by well-deserved comfort. Here in the woods the conditions were

exceedingly primitive. The new-comers evidently had few personal possessions; probably but little money after buying the land, the cost of which is not known. Their first house was built of poles, covered with great sections of bark, peeled from the big trees that were felled to make a clearing; an humble home indeed, but it was *their* house, *their* land, *their* home! And we are privileged to believe that in all the world there was not a more honest, happy home than this.

A substantial log house soon followed, and the incessant labor of the young settler soon cleared ground for crops. One winter was often mentioned by them in later years, because their food was almost wholly limited to potatoes; all the mills in the country about being frozen up, except their own coffee-mill.

Two daughters were born here; Melissa and Cherrill or Charilla. (The latter name is said to be taken from a book which they had read or possessed.) Whether his growing family was the reason, we know not; but Benjamin Ellis now began to look further west; and a year following, on July 6, 1819, he sold or rather exchanged his forty-acre farm with one Allen Neilson, a Revolutionary soldier, for a tract of one hundred acres in Harrison township, Knox Co., Ohio. The transfer price was named as three hundred dollars, which may be regarded as the main portion of the accumulation of the three and a half years' residence in Ridgeway. Years afterward some friend or relative from New York visited Benjamin and Lois when they had their third and yet larger farm, and said to him: "Ben, that forty acres in Ridgeway is worth more today than all your three hundred odd acres here!"

It is manifest that the young family was soon on the way to their new possession amid the sturdy oaks of Ohio. Their effects were conveyed in a small cart or wagon, most likely the former; and their team was a pair of young oxen, hardly more than calves. It is told of these that "they were white as angels," a descriptive phrase that must have been from the young mother Lois, who was now just twenty-one years of age. These white oxen were highly trained on the new farm, and when one of them died—a great loss to the young couple—the survivor was taught to work single, in harness like a horse; and years later, when horses had been grown, the white ox would be seen hitched in the lead of them.

Nearly the whole journey to Ohio was through country as yet but sparsely settled, and the roads were often but a mere track through the woods. It was, however, in the late summer, and the travel was not unpleasant.

On the way, after entering Ohio, a stop was made at Zanesville with the Ballou families. It is known that the mother, Mehitabel Ballou, was there, and with her Eliza, then eighteen, who married Abram Garfield two years later. A letter written by her at the age of seventy-nine, to Andrew Ellis, refers to this visit of her cousin Benjamin at this time, mentioning the young family. She visited also in return, at the Millwood farm, some twenty or thirty years later.

Whether or no Ruth, the mother of Benjamin, was yet living at this time is doubtful. Nothing to settle the query is now at hand. It must have been just about a year after her coming from Newport to Zanesville, and she may have been killed during the summer of

1819. The question has arisen as to whether the two sisters may not have been living together, Mehitabel Ballou and Ruth Ellis; as Mehitabel had with her the one daughter Eliza, and Ruth had but the boy Henry. But no mention of this is preserved, so far as is now known.

The young Ellis family was soon on their own land in Knox county, and as expressed by one of the sons in later years, "they soon chopped out a home." All the land—one hundred acres—except a small area called "the bear-wallow," was covered with heavy upland hardwood; white, black and red oak, hickory, walnut, ash and the like. The same amount and quality of standing timber would today bring many thousands of dollars; but at that time one of the principal objects of the settlers was to get rid of most of it.

This tract of land was "located" or "entered" by Allen Neilson on the warrant issued to him, on February 22, 1812; and by exchange for the Ridgeway farm, as we have seen, became the property of Benjamin Ellis, July 6, 1819.

Experience had by this time made the new owner an expert axeman and house-builder; and a cabin soon sheltered the family. It is said that he built three more log houses on this land, each in a more advantageous location and of larger size, than the one preceding. As these were successively vacated by the family, they were appropriated to other farm use, which were an increasing need each year. The first cabin became a sheepfold, and remained in use until 1850, and perhaps considerably later. Another was doubtless made to be a "loom-house," where the

later stages of warping, dyeing and weaving the flax and woolen fabrics for family wear were carried on.

At a later date, about 1833 or 1834, a comfortable frame house was built, containing six rooms, but a few feet removed from the last preceding house, which was itself a good dwelling of logs hewed flat and smooth inside, perhaps also on the outside. As the family included at this time about seven children, the older dwelling may have continued in use in part for that purpose.

It is to be remembered that all this house building of logs cost little except for the labor. The logs for walls, and puncheons or planks for floors and doors, and clapboards for roofs, were all furnished from the abundant forest; while stone for foundations, fire-place and chimney was on every hand.

Farm buildings were added as land was cleared and crops and stock increased; heavy rail fences were built to enclose all the land, and farm implements were made by the aid of the blacksmith, until in time the outfit was equal to any in the vicinity. The era of improved farm machinery was yet in the future; even the "cradle" for cutting grain was not yet invented; the common scythe for grass, and the ancient sickle for the grain, did all the harvesting. A primitive wooden beam stirring plow did all the "breaking up," while a single shovel-plow was about the only horse implement for cultivating the crops. Harrows, hoes, rakes and pitchforks furnished the further means of tillage and harvesting; while the threshing out of flax, oats, rye, wheat and buckwheat, was with flails or by the "tramping out" of horses and oxen.

At first, the neighbors were few and remote; only two were anywhere near, perhaps within a mile or so. One of these was named Dudgin, and the other—wasn't. But the settlement increased until a school was established, and the young generation was instructed in "the three R's." Sabra or Sibyl Ellis may have taught here, but not likely; both being probably married before that time.

Nor were the religious needs of the community neglected; for at some time between 1825 and 32, a place of worship was established at the east end of the farm. Benjamin Ellis and his next neighbor eastward each gave one-half acre of land for a burying ground and a place for a meeting house; which latter was built (of logs), somewhere about 1830. A Sunday school, and more or less regular worship was maintained there for about twenty years. The writer remembers being in the old log church, called "Mt. Tabor," somewhere about 1852, and the impression remains that it was little used at that time; though not then fallen into decay. But the house and boundaries of the lot have now long since disappeared; and a few fallen headstones, mostly undecipherable, are all remaining to mark the place. Three Ellis children are buried here; two who died at birth, and "little Benja," who lived eight years, dying on the Millwood farm.

The time of farmer Ellis during these busy years was not wholly given to his own affairs. He was prevailed upon to serve as Justice of the Peace for some years, much against his own will, as we have heard said. But his hard-headed good sense, his unquestioned fairness, added to by a better schooling

in his boyhood than most of his neighbors had enjoyed, seemed to make him desirable as a Justice, in estimation of the community. His duties in that capacity were quite varied, as seen by his docket or record; trespass, assault, contract, collections, and many other actions requiring the official adjudication and signature of "Benj. Ellis, J. P." Some cases are amusing because of their triviality, and all bear witness that human frailties eighty years ago were much the same as now. The fees recorded are surprisingly small, and the office could hardly have been sought for financial reasons.

Having now brought this farm into good condition, Benjamin Ellis thought it needful to enlarge his domain, to find room for his numerous boys. Meeting a fair opportunity, after having lived here for sixteen years, on July 1, 1835, Benjamin and Lois conveyed their second farm to John Burtnett of Coshocton, O., for the sum of fourteen hundred dollars, and removed some three miles north-eastward.

The new land constituted what we have called the "Millwood farm," and contained three hundred thirty-four acres; of which one of the sons wrote in later years, "We cleared every acre of it." The price paid was twelve hundred dollars; a little more per acre than the Neilson land had cost sixteen years before, and probably of about the same average quality. A number of acres was alluvial or "bottom land," much more fertile than the uplands, and a fine growth of sugar maples covered a part of this river land. The new owner being an expert in sugar-making, this may have been quite an attraction. Besides, there was near by the town of Millwood,



where stores were kept, and where grain was ground and lumber sawed: which conveniences were much farther from the former place.

We have not been told, but we presume that Squire Ellis proceeded at once to erect a log dwelling on his new land. The elder sons, Alva and Silas, now fourteen and thirteen respectively, may have rendered some assistance; but more likely his brother-in-law and nearest neighbor, Henry Babcock, joined to help him. Babcock shortly followed the Ellis family from the neighborhood of the previous farm, taking four acres of the land, and building on it a "double" hewn log house, about fifty rods from the Ellis house. One-half the Babcock house was used for the cooper shop by Henry Babcock and his son Charles, who grew into the business later. The house is yet standing and occupied, nearly seventy-five years after.

Doubtless the Ellis removal was promptly accomplished, and stables and other necessary accommodations provided, that the great work of "clearing" the new farm might begin. The fall and winter of 1835-6 and years succeeding were filled with prodigies of labor by the farmer and his sons; all of whom, with a single exception, have now gone to rest. In the housekeeping department, the two daughters, now nineteen and seventeen, likewise bore their full part, as the mother was for a considerable period a great sufferer from asthma, and largely incapacitated. In order that they might not lose their schooling, Melissa and Cherrill for some time did all the heavier work at night; washing and ironing, baking, churning and the like; and we know not what beside of spinning and weaving. Melissa afterward became a teacher, but

Cherrill remained as housekeeper for her mother until she was married to John Burtnett Jr., and went to her own home on the farm where she had grown up, about four years after first leaving it.

The Millwood farm had more neighbors than the preceding one in its first settlement. If we are not mistaken, both school and church were already accessible, but farm life yet contained mostly primitive conditions.

The public road from east to west ran through the farm from Millwood to Kinderhook, Gambier and Mt. Vernon, over which a horse-rider carried mail once or twice a week. Postage stamps and envelopes were unknown, and rates on letters were from perhaps five to twenty-five cents each, according to distance; and even a weekly newspaper was a luxury. The family cooking and heating was by the great fireplace, and the light for home and church and outdoor tin lantern, was mainly the "tallow dip" candle, varied by a grease-lamp; when the fire-light was not sufficient. The food was generally abundant and good in quality, almost wholly the product of the farm. The fields, garden, farmyard and forest, furnished in the aggregate a variety and quality sufficient even for an epicure; and into the midst of which the writer hereof was born, ten years after this Ellis farm was begun; and it may safely be said he inherited and retained an appetite for good things!

Millwood was in those days a lively and aspiring place; the trading point for a considerable territory round about. For a number of years it was accessible to the residents on the Ellis side of Owl Creek by a ford below the dam. In time of spring freshets and

other high water, the Ellis boys had a great "dug-out" canoe with which to visit Millwood. This was often an exciting and hazardous experience, as the craft would roll and pitch in an alarming manner in the swollen waters. It is supposable that the parents felt anxious at such seasons, and doubtless there were more trips deemed necessary at such times than at others, just from the love of adventure. Years later, when the writer was the small boy of the farm, the old canoe was far up the hillside, used as a trough for "salting" cattle and sheep. And the other day he stood, nearly sixty years after, upon the same spot, and looked down upon the former scene of those voyages, and thought of the long ago, and those who were then "the Ellis boys."

After some years, a long wooden bridge was built; and as remembered by the Small Boy, it was the eighth wonder of the world. And it *was* "a good deal of a bridge," as somebody said; very long, double tracked and shingle-roofed; made wholly of the best white oak, in beams and planks of massive thickness, securely pinned together. It cost three thousand dollars, and it is computed that the oak in it would today be worth fifty thousand dollars!

As on all such land at that time, a prodigious amount of labor was bestowed upon the Ellis farm to make it productive. Felling trees, cutting them up, grubbing out "stools" and removing stones involved a toil fully equal to any that could be named. Much of the forest was first gone over and "girdled" with an axe, and left a year or so to die out. Such a tract was called a "deadening;" and when the trees were later cut down, the less valuable, and often many

of the best, were cut into lengths, rolled together and burned. Such a job was called a "log-rolling," and neighbors often joined their forces to help each other, hence the use of the term in politics. In recent years we have seen a first-class oak, such as many of those thus burned, valued for its lumber at one hundred dollars; and likely as not a thousand such were thus disposed of on this Millwood farm. And yet we have heard that the father said to the sons at some time later, "Take care of the timber; in a few years it will be valuable;" which they then refused to believe. But time has shown his statement correct.

A part of the land first cleared was devoted to the growth of fruit trees, and one of the early and most lasting memories of the Small Boy is of that orchard. It had more kinds of apples, more apples to the tree, and more good apples, than any and all other orchards he ever saw. At least it seemed so then. There were Early somethings to begin on; then Harvests to continue with; and Pippins, Bellflowers, Ramboes, Gloria Mundi, Vandever, Spice, Russet, Greening, Nigger, Red Sweet, Bitter Sweet, Penic; and many we may have forgotten! And then, the peaches! They did not come every year like the apples; but nearly all fence corners had peach trees in them; and at least two seasons, 1853-4, brought tremendous crops of great luscious clings and free-stones, of which the memory yet remains.

And there were cherries every year; and such cherries! Black Hearts, Oxhearts, Queens—just bushels of them; for the several Ellis families that were there by that time; and for friends and neighbors who came to pick and eat and carry away.

Likewise for the birds; robins, woodpeckers, sap-suckers, blackbirds, jays and yellow-hammers; but how many of them fell by rifle-shot of the Ellis boys!

And as to orchards, not the least was that of Nature's own planting, the sugar maples on the river bottom toward Millwood; comprising a large number of fine trees. It was called "the sugar camp;" a term applied in present time to the shack or building in the grove where the workers boil the sap. If there was such a building in this orchard, there was no trace of it left in the day of the Small Boy; but instead there was a "sugar house" near the dwelling, where all the "boiling down" and "sugaring off" was done. This was a substantial hewn log structure of one enclosed room, outside of which was an extended roof supported by posts, covering the stone furnace upon which was placed the evaporating pan. This was a rectangular wooden box of eight or ten inches depth, with a sheet iron bottom, giving a large surface exposure to the fire; and was a great improvement over the big cast-iron kettles or cauldrons formerly used. The same device was later used when "sorghum" was introduced into the United States, about 1857-8.

The maple trees were tapped as early as the sap would flow. Two small cuts were made in the form of a V, and at the point below, a wide carpenter's gouge was driven into the wood, and into this cut a "spile" was driven, which conveyed the sap off into "sugar troughs," or sap troughs. These were made of half a small log of perhaps two feet length, with the middle hollowed out to hold two or three gallons. Many a time has the Small Boy gone down on "all

fours" at one of these troughs, and had a fill of that cold, sweet "sugar water." And many a time in mid-winter has he coasted down an icy hill in one of those same sugar-troughs like a land canoe, from want of a sled. O you steel-shod, fancy painted wind splitters of later days, you can never beat that boy in cap and mittens and red comforter, in a polished bottom sugar-trough, coming down those Ohio hills !

The "water" was gathered into large barrels, on a drag or sled, and drawn by horses to the sugar-house. It was fortunate if snow remained to make the going easy ; but regardless of that in his day, the Small Boy had many a ride, listening to the sap "plunking" in the barrels. At the sugar-house these were rolled off on skids, over a big tank ; when the square bung was taken out and the sweet sap went thundering down into the depths.

The "boiling down" and "sugaring off" were dulcet times for young folks ; sometimes extending into the night. Maple taffy-pullings were favorite occasions, and not many farms had the accessories, as did the Ellis place. The amount of syrup and sugar made year by year must have been considerable ; some at least being sold or traded to non-producers round about.

One "sugaring off"—and the last of which the Small Boy has a remembrance—was in the daytime, when he and his young uncle, Luther, then about thirteen, were left for a time in charge to keep it boiling. It was good fun for a time, to run through the steam as it rolled off to one side ; but presently it became whiter and denser, and choked and blinded them, for it was smoke ! And before they realized

what was the matter, the whole contents of the pan burst into flame, and in response to their cries the men came running and lifted off the burning mass. It is remembered further only, that the old farmer said, "We have lost about thirty pounds of sugar."

The fences and buildings on the Millwood farm were substantial and ample. The fences were nearly all of the zig-zag or "Virginia" sort; white oak rails mostly, six or seven rails high, and "staked and ridered" atop; so that hardly any domestic animal but a cat, could get over or through them. It was probably this sort of fence of which a witness testified, somewhere in the fifties; "It was a Buncombe fence, sir." And the court inquired, "What does the witness mean by a Buncombe fence?" "A Buncombe fence, your Honor, is one that is bull strong, horse high and pig tight!"

The work of constructing such a fence was large, but it was durable; and though none such are now built, many are yet standing in which are rails full fifty years old.

The dwelling and other buildings were at first all of the log cabin or hewn log variety. But ere long others were added, made from lumber sawn at Millwood. The largest of these was a barn of very considerable dimensions, erected somewhere about 1840, the main part of which is yet standing. It is of almost remarkable solidity; the sills, posts and beams are large, hand-hewn of the best white oak; double-braced, mortised and pinned together as if to withstand a tornado. It was one of the chief resorts of the Small Boy; climbing the great stringer beams and turning summersaults off them into the sweet hay, or

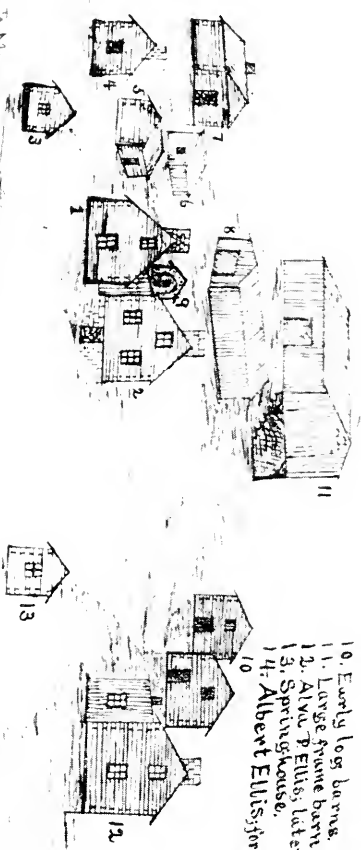
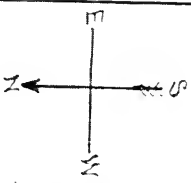
helping to pack away the sheaves of grain to await threshing time.

The first house on the Millwood farm was superseded ere long by a larger one, and to which an addition was made some years later. For the first time the family now had a cellar, by no means a common convenience in those days. But that cellar! Why, it was where the apples were kept in the winter! The smell of those apples, 'm-'m-'m! Talk to a Small Boy if you must, about Ceylon's isle, and Araby the blest. But, ——!

This house had a yet larger fire-place and chimney than the preceding one. Big backlogs, that seem on memory's tablet to have been not less than two feet through, were "walked in" early at night, and nested in the ashes against the fireplace back wall; then there was a smaller top log put on, with a forestick on the great andirons. Then with the smaller wood added, what a great fire there was, filling the big room with comfort; and before which sat at times, the parents, two daughters and seven sons; and there was not a black sheep among them!

All the accessories of a thrifty home were gathered on this Ellis farm. The older dwelling became the "loom house," where the family cloth was made; and here afterward, with the coming of a new generation, the ubiquitous Small Boy helped his own mother in the various minor processes of winding, reeling and quilling yarns for weaving into flannels, linens and linsey-woolseys. There too was the spring-house, where the milk was set in a wide, stone-bottomed bed, with the cold water flowing an inch or two deep among the crocks, so that no ice was ever





10. Early log barns.
11. Large frame barn.
12. Alva P. Ellis; later, Andrew Ellis.
13. Springhouse.
14. Albert Ellis; formerly H. Habeeck.



14

BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE MILLWOOD HOMESTEAD OF BENJAMIN ELLIS, 1854.

COUNTRY ROAD

TO HOWARD, CAMDEN, MT VERNON

← OYSTER CREEK, or KOKONING  
Several spaces between  
objects are shiftened.  
Trees, fences, and minor  
buildings omitted.

River R.

Sheepwading and "fishing" are shown in the river.

1. First dwelling, eastward "loom-house".
2. Twelling, Benj. Ellis.
3. Springhouse.
4. Sugarhouse.
5. Barrel-house.
6. Pie-house.
7. Dry-house.
8. Haystack and corn-house.
9. Brick oven, under tree.



needed; here was the churning done and the cheese ripened.

The brick "out-oven" under a roof of its own was used once a week or oftener, for the much bread and many pies and cakes needed. The quantity of such consumed by a half-dozen lusty boys would astonish an inexperienced housekeeper.

Then there was the house used both for smoking meat and drying fruit; generally called the "dry house." When smoking of hams was to be done, fire was outside several feet away, and the smoke passed under ground into the house, with very little heat. But when fruit was to be dried, a hot fire was kept in a "ten-plate" box stove; and as we remember the way it felt in there, the temperature must have been anywhere up to 500 degrees. The fruit was spread on wide trays, which rested on stout pins driven in the log walls.

There was also the bee-house, of which the Small Boy was discreetly shy; and the corn-house and wagon shelter; containing also the work-bench and tools for carpentering and repair work. Beyond these were the stables and sheep-folds, and no stock was without a comfortable shelter.

There was one other building for storage near the dwelling, called "the barrel house." Its principal contents were some of the farm and household supplies, mostly in barrels; as salt, soap, rosin, pine tar, lime and the like. The memory of house and contents had long since faded from the Small Boy's mind; when one day in passing through a wholesale street in Boston, suddenly a vision of the old barrel-

house flashed before him as though painted on a canvas. Startled and amazed, he stopped and wondered, until after some moments he recognized that the vision of memory was caused by the fragrance of *pine tar* barrels in a ware-house he was passing!

At some time not long after the Ellis family came to this their new home, Henry Babcock came also, as previously noted, and established his cooper-shop. He may have had relatives at Newport, and with his wife Sibyl he may have also gone there to visit Silas, Diana, and Henry; but in any event, on his return he brought with him a young cooper named Aaron Edgell, perhaps to work for him. The result was an acquaintance and marriage with Melissa Ellis in 1837; followed by the departure of the young pair to Newport, which was ever afterward their home.

Two years later, the second and only remaining daughter Cherrill, was married to John Burtnett, Jr., and went back to her new home on the "old farm." Nearly the whole of their married life was spent there; and their only remaining son, Martin Ellis Burtnett, is now living there.

In the summer of 1838, after the wheat harvest and "laying by" the corn, Benjamin and Lois Ellis went on horseback to visit relatives about Zanesville, and thence to Watertown. They made the trip partly or largely because of the frail condition of Lyman, then about a year old; the doctor telling them it would probably save his life. He was carried by the mother on a pillow in front of her; and was benefitted or entirely restored by the journey.

This visiting trip occupied six weeks, and evidently included the Palmers, parents of Lois, and probably

some others of her family ; and if Rufus and Martin Ellis were in that region, they were no doubt also visited. On their return, if we have learned rightly, they went to Newport to see the young Edgell family, and Benjamin's brothers Silas and Henry, and sister Diana.

But distressing news reached the father and mother on their return journey, probably at Newport. They learned that "little Benja," eight years old, was ill or already dead, of dysentery ; and on their arrival, he had been buried some days. The whole family was in the deepest affliction, for he seemed to have been a favorite ; and was remembered as of "beautiful features and complexion, with dark eyes, and brown curling hair." Doubtless the parents felt that though they had saved one child's life, they had lost another ; and that perhaps had they been at home they could have saved him. But they had the assurance of the elder children that the medical attendance and nursing were all that could have been rendered by the parents themselves. One thing, however, must have sorely tried them. On their departure they left a young woman as a helper for Cherrill, now twenty years old, to care for the household during their absence. In order to better control the young boys, this girl would tell them "bugaboo" stories, which had an effect on one of them at least, so that in all his after life he was timid in the dark. If she had no better judgment in caring for a sick child, than in such story telling, her help may have been altogether for the worse. Poor little Benja ! The father told years afterward, how he stood looking on wistfully as they mounted their horses for the

journey, and saying, "May I go too, daddy?" The last time they ever heard his voice!

Not many details of farm work are here given, but the story is told in a general term, "hard work." "Clearing a farm" is a term of vague significance to one of the present generation, but to those who did it, it was the embodiment of the severest toil. Cutting off acre after acre of trees, many of them two feet or more in diameter, sawing them into lengths for rails, lumber or burning; reducing logs to rails, and tree-tops to fire wood and brush heaps; this was a large preliminary to cultivation. Not less laborious was the "grubbing out" of the smaller saplings and "stools;" for until this was done there was little room for cultivation between the big stumps.

But farm life had its resting spells and diversions, and work itself had its enjoyable features. Sugar making, sheep washing and shearing; haying and harvesting, apple gathering and cider making; these and other features of the yearly round had each their portion of fun for the young, and relaxation perhaps for the elders. Huskings and apple-parings were occasions for neighborhood gatherings at night; while the debating society, the singing school and the spelling match in the log school house, drew together the young blood from a larger territory. Many a man and woman of mark in later years had their early experiences in these wholesome gatherings.

There were also sports at hand for leisure moments, for both small boys and large boys, at school and on the farm. At noon time and after supper, a few minutes were often found for "pitching horse-shoes," or a ball game of "two cat" or "three cat," accord-

ing to the number of boys available. "Running jump," "standing jump," "pole jump," "hop-skip-and-jump," racing and "rassling;" all gave variety and exercise, were any needed after the day's work and "chores" of feeding stock, milking and the like. In the winter there was skating and "shinny," besides "straw rides" in big sleds; and well to do young men aspired to a "cutter" sleigh in which to take out their "best girl."

At school, the leading game for the larger boys especially was "town ball," played by chosen "sides," and having many features of modern base-ball, of which it was undoubtedly the progenitor. "Anteny over" was played by boys and girls together, over the schoolhouse roof. Then there was "bull-pen" and "sock-ball," — much the same—for big boys only; the merit of which was in hitting the fellow on the other side the hardest possible throw with the ball, involving a Spartan test of "enduring hardness as a good soldier." The old saying of "sock it to 'em" seems to have come down from that hard game.

There was also "black man" for boys and girls of moderate size; and for small boys only, what was called "dog." And one of the ineffaceable recollections of the Small Boy is of one summer day when he was the only boy at school, and there was no other with whom he could play "dog"!

But on the farms there was sometimes a day off for the big boys and their fathers, that may have answered to quilting bees and the like for the girls and the mothers. These would take form as a bee-tree hunt, a 'coon party, or a fox dig-out; or maybe a day's fish-seining in the river. And was not the

Small Boy allowed to "go along," and was not the fun and the game the greatest on earth?

And there were two things then, as now, that could not be denied to any small boy; "fishin' an' swimmin'!" He could get his own lithe fish-pole, and a flax-line with the help of his mother; then a bullet-sinker, and a pin hook if he could do no better, and that boy was fixed; he could fish! Early as may be, when the spring "fresh" had subsided and there was a chance for a bite, he was eager to try his luck. Little cared he for politics or business, for chores or school, for home or heaven, could he but feel a nibble!

Then came the warmer days and warmer water, until after many teasings of his mother, the boy gets leave to "go swimmin'." He always wants to be the first to try it, and despite goose-flesh and chattering teeth, he says, "Why, the water is just as warm!" And later, when it is a real joy to be in the warmer water, he wants to go often, and the mother feels constrained to establish a limit. Now, what boy can bear to hear his rival boast, "I've been in five times today!" while he has been himself limited to three times? And so there may have been transgressions in those days; and it was told of some boy that he came in to supper, and was charged with having violated the statute of limitation, which was not admitted. "Then how is it your shirt is wrong side out?" Stunned and abashed, he finally recovered and said, "Why, I must a done it climbin' over the fence!"

The larger boys always had guns for such game as abounded, and often in clearing and plowing, there might be a shot at a toothsome squirrel or marauding



hawk. A dog was always ranging the fields where the Ellis men worked; and a large family cat accompanied them in field and woods, as general supervisor. He was of great dignity, and not disposed to notice small affairs. At one time, while overseeing the felling of a tree, he was seated with his back toward a brush-heap, under which the dog was snorting and barking after game. Presently a frightened big buck-rabbit shot from beneath the brush and knocked the "Judge" end over end several feet; but when he righted himself, he had the rabbit!

The bottom-land along the river was very fertile, and was early cleared, except a fringe of giant sycamores on the bank; which remained well into the recollection of the writer. Later years have seen much of this alluvial soil carried away by high water, and much more covered by the wash of sand and gravel from the hills. We are now paying the penalty in many states, for the slaughter of our primeval forests.

When the sons of Benjamin Ellis came of age, they were not all content to remain on the farm. Alva P., the eldest, married and built a house a few rods from his father, where the Small Boy was born, which accounts for his presence on so many occasions in this narrative; and here the new family remained for ten years. Albert also married and lived most of the time for several years in the house built by his uncle Henry Babcock, who had removed to Licking county. This house was on land sold to Babcock by Squire Ellis, and bought back again on his removal.

Silas Ellis learned the gunsmith trade of Sam Stull in Millwood, and soon went to Zanesville, among the

Ballou cousins. He was married there and then settled at his trade in Adamsville, a few miles away, and remained until 1856, when he emigrated to Boone, Iowa.

Henry left the farm at the age of twenty-one, and joined Silas in gunsmithing; but a few months later, early in 1850, Alva persuaded him to go with himself and others to California; where gold could be had almost for the picking up!

The departure of that party is one of the early but distinct recollections of the Small Boy. The doubtful, anxious, but half-hopeful parents of the two departing sons, and the crying young mother with us three little ones, in contrast with the eager gold-seekers; this may better be imagined than described. This was in April, and the party of five or more arrived at Marysville, Cal., in September, and in a few weeks Henry died of typhoid fever.

There is but a fragmentary record of this overland journey; by mule teams from St. Louis, across the unsettled alkali plains and mountain ranges. Provisions became scarce and feed for mules limited, and the greatest courage was necessary to keep going. At one time they were very short of supplies and hungry, when at very long range a large antelope was seen. A hurried conference resulted in Henry Ellis being chosen to make the shot. "Well," said Henry, "I can try;" and quickly but steadily brought down to level his heavy rifle—his own manufacture—then a flash, and a second later the buck dropped! Then there was a wild shouting and throwing of hats; for this gave them venison to carry them nearly through.

The California experience was not financially

profitable to Alva Ellis; though he brought home a few hundred dollars at the end of nearly two years. Placer digging was practically all that was open to men without capital, and few men "struck it rich." For awhile at one time he worked for some one on a "venture" at a dollar a day, there being nothing better in sight. In one of the remote mountain diggings, where he was for a time, the price of nearly every article of food was a dollar a pound; flour, pork, beans, coffee, sugar, salt—all at the one price. Everything was brought into the mines on wagons or pack-mules from Sacramento, having been first brought to San Francisco via Panama or Cape Horn. Fortunately for the miners in the mountains, there was plenty of game, and venison and bear meat helped out many a lean camp. The mountain air was so dry and pure that the fresh meat would hang in the shade indefinitely, and dry up without tainting.

The most hopeful enterprise in which Alva Ellis engaged, was in a company formed to dam the Feather River, and turn the water into a new channel, so as to get the gold in the river bed. He was a prodigy of strength, and seemed to be the only Ohio man in this company; and it was common for some one to say, when a particularly heavy log or stone was to be handled: "Make room there, and let Ohio get hold of it!"

But a freshet broke the dam, and with it the larger expectations of this Ohio miner. He had been longing for home, and this was a turning point. Having saved up a considerable bag of "dust," he figured that he had enough to pay his return via "the isthmus," and have moderate wages left; so about No-

vember, 1851, he took passage on a vessel called "Gen. Wool." The voyage was sluggish, with calms and head winds, and the vessel poorly provisioned; but finally he arrived at and crossed the isthmus; thence by a steamer to New Orleans, from which by river boat to Cincinnati, and soon thereafter, in February, 1852, he was back to his native county.

Meantime it must have seemed disappointing if not discouraging to farmer Benjamin Ellis, now in his sixtieth year, to have three of his grown sons away from him, and one of them soon dead. Albert remained, as noted, and the younger boys, Andrew, Lyman and Luther, aged fifteen, thirteen and ten; these constituted his working force. But in the fifteen years just passed, the farm had been well established, and a good measure of comfort and independence prevailed.

About 1850-53 there was developed a railroad project, to run from some point west of Knox county, through Mt. Vernon and down the river through the Ellis farm to some point eastward, perhaps Coshocton, on the Ohio Canal. To aid the enterprise, farmer Ellis mortgaged half his farm and bought stock in it; but the road was never completed; some grading and the like being done in Delaware county, and it became a total loss. Millwood sank, as it were, into the ground; instead of becoming a railroad town; and many a castle in the air vanished "like the mist before the sun."

The mortgage inheritance from this "slump" was the burden of Benjamin Ellis' remaining years, and doubtless shortened his life. What would have been

a comfortable old age, was one filled with anxiety and effort to pay interest and redeem his land. And he had plenty of company in it, among his neighbors.

"Uncle Martin" Ellis, next older brother to Benjamin, made two or more visits to the Millwood farm, from 1837 to 1853. He had lived in New York until perhaps about 1843; when, being a widower, he came to Ohio, having with him on one visit a lame or crippled son, Benjamin. Two other children came; Henry Ingalls Ellis, who taught school in Knox county, became a physician, and married a Miss Mulford; and Eliza Ellis, who taught school in Licking county, and was married there to Dr. Paramore. Dr. Ellis lived for a time in Millwood, then joined practice with Dr. Paramore in St. Louisville, Licking county; but later removed to Chicago. One daughter is remembered, probably the only child. The Paramores, with two or more children, later removed to some town in Illinois.

An amusing incident is remembered as occurring at the marriage of Eliza and Dr. Paramore. It was a church affair with a "full house;" and the dignified Baptist clergyman had just pronounced that part of the service which says, "if any persons know of any reason why," etc., "let them now make it known, or ever after hold their peace." At this juncture, after a momentary pause, a solemn individual arose in the audience and, as if in discharge of a grave public duty, announced, "I presume, parson, there are no objections!" and solemnly sat down, amid many smiles. The ceremony then proceeded to its conclusion.

It seems probable that "uncle Martin" Ellis had

other and older children left in New York, but of this we have no account whatever. Neither do we know that he had a home in Ohio; but it rather would appear that after the coming of the before-mentioned children to Ohio, he returned to New York and lived there. He was about sixty years old when the California gold fever broke out, and started from where he was to some eastern port, either Boston or New York, to ship via “the Horn” for the mines; but slipped and broke his hip on an icy sidewalk, and went no further. He was afterward at his brother Benjamin’s in 1853 or ’54, and walked with a cane, as we distinctly remember. It is probable that he and the children mentioned visited with the family of his uncle Ebenezer Ingalls, in Hebron, south of Newark, but of this we have no tradition; and neither do we remember any mention in the Benjamin Ellis family of those Ingalls relatives, though they were hardly more than fifty miles away.

It was not the purpose of this narrative to introduce any other than those connected with the Ellis line; but in the neighborhood was a character so unique and widely known that we must be pardoned the digression. His name was probably William at first, but his fame in all later time was by the name of Billy Smith. He was an expert angler, and we have just one memory of meeting him with rod and basket on the Millwood road, and he kindly stopped and showed us boys the fish he had just caught above the dam. As remembered, he looked exceedingly like the pictures we have seen of Daniel Webster in farmer costume at Marshfield; a wide hat, loose coat, and heavy boots. But his resemblance and his fame

were not of statesmanship, nor yet of fishing ; but that he was “the monumental liar of Ohio !” And it is doubtful if any other American state ever produced an equal of this modern Munchausen ; whose extravagantly absurd and inimitable yarns filled a place which none other dared to claim. For a half century since, we have from time to time met in public prints, reproductions and perversions of these marvellous recitals, which we first had heard attributed to Billy Smith ! His fertility and audacity were astounding, and he would tell these preposterous stories, often at his own expense, with such seriousness that he seemed actually to believe them.

Billy was a “church member,” and in good standing except for this one characteristic. It was related that out of respect for public opinion he was finally cited to appear before the church officials, and humbly acknowledged his fault, saying in part, “I know it’s wrong, bretheren, and I’ve talked over it, and I’ve prayed over it, and I’ve cried over it ; why, I’ve shed just *barrels of tears* !”

It is believed that the “bretheren” let him go as easily as they could, privately acknowledging him as incorrigible. He is said to have lived to be very old ; and on returning from Millwood to his farm on foot in the evening, was overtaken by a cold rain, lost his way and perished by the roadside, not far from home. Poor old Billy ! We know not if a stone marks his grave and commemorates his fame ; but he shall have at least this word of remembrance.

One of the later improvements of the Millwood farm was the “water-telegraph,” installed in 1853. This was a device for bringing water from the spring

to the door or porch of the house, without going down the declivity and bringing it by hand. The idea and work were from Silas, who came from Adamsville to visit his former home; and its essential features were a taut heavy wire, supported on posts carrying curved steel fingers which touched and upheld the under surface of the wire; and a trolley hung upon the wire with the carrying bucket attached underneath. The trolley would easily run down the wire, and the bucket, dipping full, was drawn back to the house by an attached cord, wound on a wheel. This was a great curiosity to many, and remained in use perhaps fifteen years. The stone trough made for this purpose to receive the spring water, finally broke in two and was taken out many years later.

Another labor-saving device was introduced perhaps a year earlier; namely, a horse-power wood-sawing machine. We think that Silas Ellis had talked up this idea also; anyway we remember his being present when it was in operation. When first it was discussed, the 'Squire said, "Well, I'll give ten dollars toward it." Then Alva and Albert "chipped in" if we rightly remember, and John Burtnett contributed the use of the horse-power of his threshing-machine. The circular saw, shaft and balance-wheel were ordered somewhere, and all the frame and other wood-work was home-made, and well made, mainly we think, by Andrew; who was already a good mechanic, though but about seventeen at the time. With a pair of horses hitched to each of the four "sweeps," there was ample power, and a day's work at the house of each of the partners would cut a whole winter's wood into desired lengths;



an immense saving over the ordinary cutting with the axe. At that time, it is doubtful if there was another such apparatus in the whole county.

There was another innovation or improvement that came in about the same period, viz., cider-making. From time immemorial, apples had been hauled away to some water power, and there made into cider. But some one said, "Let's make our own cider." And so a mill and press were made then and there, and many a barrel was thenceforth had at first hand, without the benefit or encouragement of a protective tariff. And such cider as that was—— ! !

Until about 1850 the grain thresher and separator was unknown. From earliest history the beating out by flail, or treading out by the feet of horses and oxen had been universal ; and many a time after the above date did the Small Boy lend his presence to work of this kind on the main floor of the big barn. But machinery was coming in to supplant the primitive methods ; and perhaps during the '40's was brought out the threshing machine, or "chaff-piler" as it was afterward called. This was run by horse-power, and its essential feature was the iron-toothed cylinder which beat out the grain and threw it and straw and chaff into a common heap. After this the straw was raked away and the chaff and grain separated by a fanning-mill, which was also a modern device. But American invention soon combined the two machines ; and we think John Burtnett was one of the first to introduce it into Knox county.

"Thrashing-time" was thenceforth a big day for the Small Boy in the big barn. He was large enough to help get sheaves from remote parts of the big mow

toward the machine, or to help in some other small way. The men generally had a wet sponge tied over nose and mouth to keep out the dust; but there was no protection for the ears, and the noise was great. The machine was one of the original "knocker" build, and we think the men all liked the racket as well as the boys; and we remember John Burtnett, who "fed" the machine, and was son-in-law, or brother-in-law or uncle to all the crowd, asking us small fry, "Don't your ears ring?"

In their religious responsibilities, Benjamin and Lois Ellis are remembered as unobtrusive, yet faithful and conscientious. They had been early instrumental in the establishment of public worship on their first Ohio farm, as will be remembered; and when settled on the Millwood place they became factors there in the church affairs. It is said they were quietly but firmly attached to their denomination, and looked with strong disfavor on all others. But at a time, somewhat earlier than the writer's recollection, there chanced that way on some errand, a homespun preacher of another school than their own. It was near time for supper, and he was invited to eat with the family, for Christian courtesy was stronger than denominational prejudice. The conversation became interesting, soon involving features of the visitor's doctrinal teaching; and hour after hour passed in reading the Scriptures and discussion, until morning came without their having slept at all! Afterward we heard of the father's saying, "We ought to have heard these things long ago."

Thenceforth, and ever after the writer's recollection, the family church-home and burial place was

at the "Jelloway meeting-house," some three or four miles northwesterly; and thither in all passable weather on Sundays, a delegation went from the Ellis farm. Parents and children, representing three generations, went in wagons and on horse-back, some at times, and sometimes all. There were very few carriages then; we do not remember one that came to that meeting. But there were horses, horses, horses; such numbers of whinnying horses, tied to the oak trees, and having a meeting of their own!

Here was a gathering of a considerable number of families of thrifty, hardy farmers, of whom Benjamin Ellis was a worthy sample. Some were men of no small ability, and nearly all were of strong character. There were public speakers often present, of their own plain, hardy type; mighty in the scriptures, and knowing far less of other books than is now thought necessary. Among these was the writer's own maternal grandfather, Benjamin Sanders, whose local and itinerant ministry extended over a considerable portion of Ohio, during some twenty years. The worship here was simple, dignified, devout, and its influence wholesome; to be carried thence by some to distant places. Here were Drakes, Dawsons, Critchfields, Cassils, McFarlands, Moodys, McElroys, Grahams, Spindlers, Encells, Ellises and others; but a half century later we find only their headstones; and the meeting no longer held there, but in the town of Howard. The present house is, however, in good repair, and a memorial meeting is annually held there by the descendants and others.

These pages are written not more to preserve to posterity the genealogical record of the Ellis-Palmer

line, than to narrate in brief outline the story of a plain hardworking pioneer couple of Ohio, in the first half of the nineteenth century. By their industry and fidelity they made themselves a home, and a place in the community second to none in all the country about. There is no thought of eulogy or over-praise; but a simple testimony to sterling worth. Neither of this couple perhaps ever thought that any descendant, at any time later, would be sufficiently interested to make their life the subject of even this little history.

But the end of their labors was approaching, and when not yet having reached the allotted three-score and ten, they entered into rest. While two sons yet remained with him, the father's health began to fail, about 1856; and in something less than two years, perhaps, he died peacefully; March 17, 1858. His last words were, "I have all confidence in God, and know all is well with me."

The mother, some six years younger, continued with the two younger sons in the home; they and the next older, Andrew and Albert, near by, working the farm. Luther, the youngest, began to break down, and died in 1861, aged nearly twenty-two. The same year, Albert and Lyman entered the volunteer army, the one as lieutenant and the other as sergeant in the 65th Ohio. This left Andrew alone on the farm with his mother, so he made his home with her as we remember, until her death, March 14, 1864. Albert returned in broken health within two years after his enlistment, and Lyman, on a furlough, returned after two years' service; so the mother lived to see both at home.

## THE BENJAMIN ELLIS DESCENDANTS.

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It will be in order now to follow the several families of the children of Benjamin and Lois Ellis, in sufficient detail that an intelligible record may be had for present reading and future reference.

In the order of age of the children above mentioned, we have first ;

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### THE AARON EDGELL FAMILY.

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|---------------------|---|
| (53) AARON EDGELL,  | } married at Millwood<br>Oct. 12, 1837. |
| (43) MELISSA ELLIS, |   |

Children :

- (54) BENJAMIN ELLIS EDGELL, b. Newport, Ohio,  
Nov. 8, 1839.
- (55) HENRY ELLIS EDGELL, b. Newport, Ohio,  
Apr. 27, 1842.

BENJAMIN E. EDGELL was in the 129th Ohio for about one year ; and later became a Methodist clergyman, and married LOUISE DAWSON of Knox county, Dec. 18, 1867. After serving several pastoral charges in Pennsylvania, he was appointed missionary to China for three years, returning in 1876. After a ministry in California, the couple returned to their native state, and have now completed more than forty years of active pastoral work. For some years their home has been in Oberlin, Ohio, and Mr. Edgell is in charge of the endowment fund of his Conference, for the benefit of superannuated ministers. There are no children.

HENRY E. EDGELL has always lived on the farm where he was born in Newport. He was married Feb. 19, 1861, to AMANDA GREGORY; and five children were born to them:

- (1) ELMER E. EDGELL, 1861; married LOU BEACH, 1892.
- (2) CLARENCE BENJ. EDGELL, 1866; married LOLA OGDIN, 1890.  
Children: RUTH A.; MARY L.; HELEN;  
OGDIN.
- (3) NELLIE MELISSA EDGELL, 1872.
- (4) FAIRMAN ROSS EDGELL, 1879.
- (5) THOMAS M. EDGELL, 1887; married ROSE FELTER, 1908.

Henry E. Edgell's sons are, like himself, connected with the petroleum industry which abounds in that region. An oil pumping station is located on his farm, to which oil is piped from adjacent wells, and then forced eastward across the Ohio river toward the refineries; and natural gas is wholly used for fuel and lighting.

The Edgell ancestry was English; the John Edgell sons settled in Licking county, Ohio; and one of these, Robert Edgell, born 1775, came to Newark, 1806. Seven children were born, of whom Aaron was the second, in 1811; and in 1820 the family came to Newport. The father lived until 1865, the last twelve years with his son Aaron and wife Melissa.

The married life of Aaron and Melissa Edgell has always been remembered as one of marked devotion and felicity. In the presence of others, and in whatever each wrote concerning the other, there was always

the kindest consideration and appreciation; so that for more than half a century they maintained an ideal home life. Their golden wedding was celebrated in 1887; and although in failing health in later years, they remained in active intercourse with friends and relatives to the last. They were moderately prosperous, and welcomed many kindred; and themselves visited frequently in return. Their housekeeping, if we mistake not, began in the cabin home built for his mother by Benjamin Ellis, Melissa's father, in 1812 or '13; and there they dwelt until 1853, when a large and convenient house was erected, which is yet standing, and there their days ended. She died in May, 1890, and the affection of the husband shown in her sepulture was as marked as that always manifested during her life. He survived her about two years, to the age of eighty-one.

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THE JOHN BURTNETT FAMILY.

CHARILLA ELLIS (47) was m. to JOHN BURTNETT JR., at Millwood in 1839. Their children are:

(62) LOIS BURTNETT, 1840; m. MAHLON MC-ARTOR; she d. 1868.

(63) MARY BURTNETT, 1842; m. ARMEDIAN WHITE; he d. 1905.

(64) MARTIN ELLIS BURTNETT, 1845; m. ANGIE L. ADRIAN.

(65) MARTHA BURTNETT, 1845; m. WILLIAM JACOBS; he d. 1902.

(66) ELIZA BURTNETT, 1847; m. STEVE TISH: she d. 1879.

(67) MELISSA BURTNETT, 1850; m. ALLEN OSBORN; he d. 1893.

- (68) BENJAMIN BURTNETT, 1852; d. 1864.  
(69) EMMA A. BURTNETT, 1855.  
(70) WILLIAM BURTNETT, 1860; m. MARGARET  
McMAINS; he d. 1890.  
(Martin and Martha are twins).

JOHN BURTNETT JR., was a young man of nineteen when his father bought the Ellis farm in 1835. He was second in a large family, and a hard-working, honest man, with a desire and purpose from the first, as he said, "to own that land himself some day." And though he lived elsewhere at times after his marriage, yet he kept close by or upon it for the most part; and after his father's death he gradually paid off the other heirs, until we believe he finally acquired full ownership. He was often engaged in other enterprises than farming; we have noted his running a threshing-machine. But his chief avocation was dealing in live stock, successfully and otherwise. In the '60's he made two or more trips to Iowa with car-loads of horses and sheep, and on his returning from a later expedition of this kind, if we remember rightly, during the '70's, he met his death, probably by foul play, somewhere in Indiana.

Since that time the farm has become the home of the only surviving son, Martin E. Burtnett; so that at this time the third generation of Burtnetts dwell there. Since it is so well established as "the Burtnett farm," it is to be hoped that succeeding generations of the name may yet continue upon it.

LOIS BURTNETT McARTOR left three daughters; MARY and ROSE, who married two brothers named NORTON, in Iowa county Iowa; and EVA, who mar-



ried MR. BUTTS in Ohio, and lives near Danville. The latter has three or more children.

MARY BURTNETT WHITE lives in Delaware county Ohio, near Westerville and Lewis Centre; on the farm where Mr. White died. There are two children: 1. CHARLES A. WHITE, Delaware, Ohio, dealer in carriages and farm implements; has wife and three children. The eldest of these, Orpha May, was m. 1909, to Paul M. Gault. 2. ANNA WHITE (BALE), Westerville, Ohio, near her mother; husband and two children.

MARTIN E. BURTNETT and wife have brought up two children; FRED A. BURTNETT, b. 1884, and FLORENCE DELLA MAY BURTNETT, b. 1887. Fred was married in 1907, to MAY B. ALLEN of Howard, and they have one daughter, Lois Burtnett, b. 1908; and live on a farm near the town. Della May was married in 1908 to WILLIAM J. McNABB of Butler township, where their home now is.

MARTHA BURTNETT JACOBS, and husband WILLIAM, lived nearly all their married life in Gambier, the college town of Knox county. About 1902 they removed to a farm some miles to the northward, near Danville, where the husband and father died not long after. There were six children in all: MARY E. JACOBS, b. 1867; CORA A. JACOBS, 1871; EDWARD H. JACOBS, 1874; EMMA F. JACOBS, 1877; JOHN J. JACOBS, 1880; and RUTH B. JACOBS, 1885.

Cora A. was married in 1908, to Mr. Blue of the same neighborhood, and died of pneumonia the same year. She and her elder sister Mary had for some years carried on a business in skilled embroidery de-

signs, their trade extending throughout the country; and were for a considerable time located in Columbus, O. The two sons have proven themselves successful and prosperous farmers.

Mr. Jacobs, the father, was a direct descendant of Myles Standish and John Alden of the Plymouth Pilgrims, his family being the ninth generation.

ELIZA BURTNETT TISH was married and lived in Knox county. Left one son, BURLEIGH TISH, who died young.

MELISSA BURTNETT OSBORN lives on her farm near Marengo, Morrow county. Has one daughter, LOIS OSBORN, m. 1908, to H. R. SMITH JR., of Delaware; now resident at Houghton, N. Y.

EMMA A. BURTNETT, unmarried, lives with her sister, Mrs. White, near Westerville.

WILLIAM BURTNETT lived in Knox county, then in Iowa, and again in Ohio, where he died. Left one daughter, CHARILLA, who died young.

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### THE ALVA P. ELLIS FAMILY.

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|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (45) ALVA P. ELLIS    | } married in Knox<br>Co., O., 1844. |
| (71) MARGARET SANDERS |                                     |

Children:

- (72) FRANCIS O. ELLIS, b. Howard, O., 1845. *D. 19*
- (73) SARAH C. ELLIS, b. " " 1846.
- (74) LAURA E. ELLIS, b. " " 1848.
- (75) CLARA B. ELLIS, b. " " 1853.
- (76) NORTON S. ELLIS, b. Wellman, Iowa, 1855.
- (77) EMMA L. ELLIS, b. Green Center, Iowa, 1856.

(72) - the author of this book

In nearly everything that has been written concerning the Millwood farm, Alva Ellis is to be counted present as boy or man. He was about fifteen when the family came from the "Burnett farm," thenceforth so called; and he bore a sturdy part with his father in all the great labor of clearing, fencing and tilling that new possession. He was tireless, ambitious and energetic; never shirking; and fully equalled his father in the prodigies of work he accomplished. When he married and built a house a few rods from his parents, it was to be as a tenant, and no suggestion of allotment of land to be called his, seems to have been made. And mostly for nearly ten years, except while absent in California, he worked as before on his father's land.

He was by nature sufficiently mechanical to be skilful in all ordinary farm or house-building and repairing; a faculty which always was useful in the making of farm implements. We have heard of his once going with his parents to Mt. Vernon, when he was perhaps twelve years old; and when they were about to return, they found him greatly absorbed in examination of a wheelbarrow. He had evidently never before seen one, but this inspection bore fruit not many days after; when out of the meagre facilities on the farm, he constructed a really creditable wheelbarrow; and came to the house in great feather, wheeling to his mother a load of bark for firewood! None but those who have achieved victory by their own effort, or parents who have rejoiced with them, can well appreciate such a homely episode.

There were severe trials for the farmers in the early years of the Alva Ellis family. Wheat was

about the most readily salable crop, and wheat seemed to have a host of enemies in those years. Hessian fly, rust and weevil successively devastated the promising crop; and doubtless had an influence on the young farmer; first, to seek his fortune in California, and later to turn his face toward the prairies of Iowa.

However that may have been, we find that the next year after his return from California, he joined with several others, who like himself had no land, and went prospecting to Iowa. They all "entered" or purchased "government land," never before occupied by white men, at \$1.25 per acre. This was in Iowa county, some twenty odd miles from Iowa City, then the capital of the State, and which was a State then but seven years old. Most of this same land is now worth about one hundred twenty-five dollars per acre, a little more than a half century later!

The next year, on October 12, 1854, witnessed the migration of the Alva P. Ellis family to their land of promise. It was one of the great years of exodus from eastern and central states to what was then "way out west." Many went by rail as far as railways extended; perhaps one line had at that time reached the Mississippi, but we think not. The river was not bridged till some years afterward, and there was not a rail laid in Iowa until about 1855-6.

But the great throng of emigrants for Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and some yet further, was by means of the "covered wagon." Their appearance is familiar to all who possess a school history or geography; but the experience of such a journey is in itself an epoch in life, especially to the young generation.

The ordinary outfit was a pair of horses or oxen attached to the canvas-covered wagon. Some may have had two wagons; in other cases two families went in one wagon. Many had small means and large families, and to procure even a modest outfit was difficult. Doubtless some had to stop short of their intended destination, by reason of bad roads or exhausted animals; but generally they "went through," anywhere from four hundred to a thousand miles, in from three to eight weeks.

The outfit of Alva P. Ellis was decidedly larger and better than the average. While many went upon the plan of converting pretty much all their possessions into cash, and carrying a light load, he did just the opposite. Believing it would be better to take with him everything possible which would be needed, he procured from one source the running gear of a wide track, extra heavy mountain wagon, once probably used on the National Road, with tires nearly an inch thick. Then from his brother-in-law John Burtnett if we mistake not, he bought a large Pennsylvania wagon-body, just fitted to the running gear; and he then had a complete wagon, such as were formerly used to transport six-horse loads over the Alleghanies before the day of railroads.

The stowage capacity of this big wagon was great, nearly three times that of the ordinary emigrant outfit. This was packed with the skill of an experienced "forty-niner," all heavy articles at the bottom, and filled almost solidly to the arched canvas roof. A space was reserved in the forward end for the family; snug and comfortable in all weathers, but with an outlook ahead only. This family space was at night

made into a sort of Pullman compartment, wherein slept the Boy, — no longer so small as he had been— and a young man named Jasper Horner, who was “working his passage ” to Iowa. This was great enjoyment for a boy ; but others of the family were housed at night under a large tent, which was equally as great fun for such as liked it. The end of the first day’s travel was a few miles west of Mt. Vernon in the beech woods, with the fallen leaves several inches deep ; beneath which were quarts and pecks of beech nuts. And wasn’t that a royal camping place ?

The motive power of the big wagon was two yoke of heavy oxen, led by a large horse ; all full-shod. Shoeing oxen was by no means common, but it saved the risk of lameness, and no delay occurred on the way ; the team working perfectly. Three cows, and a saddle-horse for following them, completed the list of live stock. The Boy generally rode the saddle-horse, and milked the cows ; these latter in Ohio before starting, in Indiana and Illinois on the way, and in Iowa after they arrived ; milked the same cows in four States. But he will never do the like again.

The weather was generally favorable, and for the greater part high spirits prevailed. If some things became monotonous, new things came to enliven the travellers.

There are distinct recollections of crossing the Olentangy at Delaware, where the Boy for the first time saw a “cullud pusson ;” of Urbana and Piqua ; of the corduroy and plank roads through what was then called the Black Swamp in Indiana, and the numerous toll-gates ; for in those days many thor-

oughfares were chartered private enterprises, and exacted tribute from all who passed over them. Attica is also remembered, because of its water system; probably log pipes in the ground with drinking places along the streets, called "fountain pumps"—a great curiosity to the Boy. And the Wabash, if we mistake not, was the river crossed by a "rope ferry," another curiosity. A strong cable was stretched across, between big trees; and the flat boat was attached by a V rope, with a pulley running on the cable. By varying either length of the V rope, the angle of the boat to the current would be changed, and it would run across, and back again, as desired.

Then they came to Danville, to Bloomington, and to Peoria, thrifty towns even then. There was a railroad at Peoria coming down from Chicago and going on south, to Springfield, probably. The Boy remembered the place particularly because of the size and number of buffalo fish he saw there, caught in the lake; and they were an entirely new variety to that young angler.

A singular and unpleasant experience attended the mother and children in crossing that part of Illinois called the Grand Prairie. A sort of ophthalmia attacked them all, caused probably by some local microbe or vegetable dust peculiar to that region. For several days, the eyelids would be so stuck together in the morning that it was no small task to "wash and come seeing."

About Nov. 8th the emigrants reached the Father of Waters opposite Muscatine. Did the great river ever look so big to any other Boy? Full to the bank's limit, it rolled down from the vasty North; cold, blue,

immeasurable, irresistible, eternal; they said it was a mile wide, and from twenty to forty feet deep! It does not seem so now, from any of the great steel bridges; but from the low, flat horse-ferry boat it was then awe-inspiring.

And here was Iowa; then a State of eight years; a year or two older than Ohio, when the first Benjamin Ellis family came down the river to Newport. It had about a quarter million white inhabitants; one tenth the number of fifty years later. There was not a mile of railroad or telegraph; transportation was wholly by wagons to and from the river towns, and the interior settlements. All merchandise was by river steamboats, then in their glory, but now almost obsolete. Business was good, for the great tide of immigration brought money and needs, and those who had aught to sell found a good market with the new comers. Little or nothing was sold for export in those days.

A singular feature of the earlier settlement of the state was in the fact that the larger number of the pioneers located in the woods or "timber" along the streams, where nearly all the existing trees were found. They built cabins and farmed generally in a small way, after the manner of the wooded states; and did not venture out upon the prairies where the soil was far better. Many actually cleared land of trees for farming, as their fathers had done in Ohio and Indiana!

But the great immigration of the '50's was of those awake to the value of prairie land for farming. All they wanted of the land along the streams was for wood-lots, from which to cut firewood and building



and fencing material. They fearlessly faced the bleak winds of winter in the open, for the greater freedom and better soil, rather than to shelter themselves behind the bluffs and trees as did the earlier comers.

Two or three days travel brought the Alva Ellis family from Muscatine to the county next that where-in lay their own land. Friends who had preceded them by a year welcomed them; and in a few days an empty cabin was found on the bank of Smith Creek, perhaps a half mile from the present thriving town of Wellman. A year was spent in this neighborhood; a crop raised on rented land, and preparations made to occupy their new farm at the end of 1855.

This temporary home was seven or eight miles from their own tract, and no attempt was made to do anything there until the next summer. The father traded his two horses for more oxen, and organized a four yoke “breaking team,” for turning over the tough prairie sod. The Boy became driver, and soon learned to snap the big whip over the long line of oxen as they drew the breaking-plow, which turned about a twenty-four inch furrow. Land was then broken up, if we rightly remember, for a dollar and a quarter per acre; just what the owners paid Uncle Sam for it. Considerable money was earned in this way for about three years.

In August, 1855, the first break was made to open up land for their own home. A considerable area was turned over for a wheat crop to be sown the following spring; and the same was done for a neighbor whose land adjoined, who built a small house

immediately afterward. Up to that time there was but one roof to be seen anywhere about there. North, south, east, west; all was unfenced native pasture, green and waving prairie grass, over which roamed wild deer and coyotes, and from which the Indian and buffalo had but lately disappeared. But what a great, out-door, roomy place it was, "with no one nigh to hinder"! Here was life, liberty, and happiness indeed; and the more than half century since has not effaced nor dulled the memory of that boyhood experience.

After a few days of camp life on the new homestead, and sleeping at night in the big wagon, the two departed, and early in December the family all came, and housed with neighbor Lybarger, who had just built and moved in, after the Ellises had done their plowing. In the two families thus brought together, there were the four adults and eight children, aged from one to ten years. The house was one room, not more than eighteen feet square, with a loft overhead, where beds were made for the rising generation, and to which dormitory they ascended by a rude ladder. Pretty snug packing it was, up stairs and down; too close together to be cold, and too much fun always to think of quarreling.

A lean-to addition was soon built, making the accommodations more ample, and here they all dwelt, healthy and comfortable until the following spring. During the winter, the two men, who had been school boys together in Ohio, assembled and prepared the materials for the Ellis house. As built, it contained seven rooms, and was more commodious than most others erected at that time. Many dwellings of the

period were called "plank houses," being enclosed with upright planks with the joints battened, making a fairly tight "shell;" and in such an enclosure families often lived for years, until able to get the interior ceiled or plastered. The Ellis house was a regular "balloon frame," covered with weatherboards of black walnut, and floored and shingled with white oak, all from the "timber" along English River, where a ten-acre lot belonged to the farm. In early spring, stone was hauled five or six miles for a foundation; and in a few weeks the house was "enclosed" and occupied, May, 1856.

Plastering materials were not to be had that year, and only with difficulty in 1857. A trip to Muscatine was made to get sashes, glass and hardware, together with some additional supplies for the new farm. Soon after, during 1857, a railroad was completed to Iowa City, about twenty-two miles distant, so that from that time there was a selling and purchasing market one day's journey away. But to return; now for the farming.

First, the spring wheat must be sown, even in the midst of the house-building. Scattered upon the half-rotted sod of the previous year, it was harrowed in as thoroughly as possible, and with favorable weather a good crop of "Canada Club" was harvested in about four months. Then more of the virgin turf was turned over by the big "breaking team," and "sod-corn" was planted, for there was yet no ground tillable for corn. Sod-corn was planted by cutting a gash in the raw sod with an axe, dropping in a few grains and then closing the cut with the foot. No cultivation was possible, so the corn grew

as best it could, and in favorable seasons a considerable crop was often grown, the best of which would make meal for the family, and the other, with the stalks, was good feed for stock.

Some of the land broken up the first summer was a "hazel-rough," covered thick with hazel bushes; and no sod in it. This made a wonderful soil for garden use, where everything grew abundantly, particularly potatoes and melons. Two seasons on that spot produced watermelons of fabulous size, and of a quality we have never since seen equalled anywhere. Later, however, the quality and size both declined to the normal.

Since cattle could run at large for pasture, it was necessary to fence all cultivated land, and the building of fences was a large item of labor and expense. These were mostly of mortised posts carrying three rails, or posts with the rails spiked on; this being sufficient to turn all well-bred cattle and horses; while swine were kept shut up.

The hay needed for stock was for some years wholly from the wild grass of the prairie. At its best, it was equal to any of the domestic varieties, for milch cows, horses and working cattle. But when in time it became scarcer from fencing up more of the land, it was necessary to seed down part of each farm for pasture and hay. But to this day there are those who prefer prairie hay, even at a higher price, and though brought perhaps a thousand miles.

The advantages of the new location and method of farming were marked and encouraging. The land was already cleared; not a bush, stump or stone interfered with cultivation; and it was "great larks"

for a man who had been always before limited by such obstacles, now to plow a clean, straight furrow, in the deep, black soil, for a quarter or half mile ; all on his own land !

The second year, that is, after the first wheat crop, saw the land ready to plow deeper, for the first actual corn crop. This was usually a fair yield, but generally not equally good with what followed a year or two later, when the prairie grass roots had thoroughly rotted. Oats, rye and buckwheat grew readily, also all the vegetable crops, so that by the third year of such a farm as indicated, everything was in "full swing." Corn-stalk pasture was from the first a favorite way of fall and winter feeding of cattle. But little corn was cut into shocks for some years ; the small grain and the larger job of field husking seeming to overshadow the minor one of "cutting up" corn. But all live stock, including even the hogs, could in winter forage with the prairie hens in the fields ; which then as now, gave them a good living for many weeks.

The providing of wood for present and next summer's use, and the getting out of sawed lumber and split posts and rails for more fences, made a chief feature of the winter's work. The daily trip with oxen or horses to "the timber" whenever weather allowed, was as regular as the plowing or mowing of summer ; and was often a test of physical endurance not so common at the present day. Many men and boys at that time had neither overcoat nor under-suits ; and to face a northwester at zero for a homeward drive of one, two, or three miles, often necessitated running and stamping and thrashing of arms to keep

from perishing; and the Boy had such a fight oftentimes. Winters seemed much more severe then than now in Iowa; and the farms and roads had then no groves and wind-breaks which are so common today.

The neighborhood of the Alva P. Ellis farm at Green Center was rapidly settled, so that in two or three years nearly half the land was fenced and being broken up. Abundant territory yet remained for pasturage, belonging to speculative non-residents; which was afterward gradually acquired by settlers. Schools were lacking at first, but ere long there were facilities provided to teach the young idea how to shoot. In the earlier days, perhaps on becoming a state, Congress had granted to Iowa one square mile of unsold land in each township, the proceeds of which when sold, were to constitute a fund for the promotion of common school education. Any school district which could muster a certain number of pupils or children of school age, could borrow from this fund for the building of a school house; and thus what would have been at first impossible by direct taxation, was made accessible to hundreds and perhaps thousands of districts.

As to church accommodation, this was at first in the dwellings of the settlers, but promptly on the appearing of school houses, they became the places of meeting. Denominational preferences soon led to the country church house; and while some died, as it were, yet in most cases they have lived and served their generation well. But in these later years, with the improvements of roads and vehicles, the tendency is to centralize both schools and churches in the railroad towns, thus leaving not a few of the former places to fall into decay.

The early farm buildings in Iowa were very different from those in the wooded States. Nearly all the stock was sheltered under hay or straw sheds, formed of a frame of poles covered with brush, upon which was piled or stacked a great heap of wild grass from the sloughs or hollows of the prairie. This grass was often fully six feet high, and when well built upon a brush roof, would shed the rain well for some years. The south side of these shelters would be left open, and the other three sides walled up to the eaves with sods, or banked with a great quantity of straw; so that when well done either way the shelter was even warmer than the ordinary log or board stables of the older States. Often a large part or the whole of the farm threshing would be done here, and an immense heap of straw piled on and around the sheds, so they would be buried many feet deep. Cattle and horses would then feed on straw and chaff all winter, and often needed little else. When the next threshing season arrived, the old straw would have almost disappeared, and the process would be repeated.

But threshing soon came to be done mostly in the midst of the fields, where the straw was stacked in some order, and then all winter through the cattle had free access to it. And even at this day it looks comfortable and home-like to see a "bunch" of calves, cows and steers eating their way into a big straw-stack!

In addition to opening up the new farm, Alva P. Ellis and Boy continued for two years to run the four-yoke breaking-plow for other settlers, and earned considerable hard money by doing so. We remember

that gold and silver seemed quite plentiful then ; no silver dollars ; gold ones nearly always. Nobody wanted the paper money of that day, from the state and private banks, and both of uncertain value. On the way thither from Ohio, it was hardly possible to pass the paper money of any state at face value outside of its own boundaries ; and not a few sharpers did a good business " shaving " the bank bills of the time. Compare that state of things in currency, with the system in use ten years later, as developed by Salmon P. Chase !

The introduction of the sorghum sugar-cane began here in 1857, and immediately on every farm was found a space devoted to its culture. Two or more neighbors usually joined in making a crusher of upright wooden rolls, turned by a horse hitched to a sweep, after the manner of a brick-clay mixer ; and by this was the juice pressed out. Evaporating pans after the pattern of the Benjamin Ellis maple sugar plant, made the production of syrup easy ; and nobody henceforth lacked sweetening, such as it was. Sugar was not produced to any extent, but the best made of the syrup was quite palatable, and filled an important place in every household for some years.

The spring and early summer of 1858 were phenomenally wet, so that the corn crop was very meagre, and small headway was made that year. Sound corn was so scarce that it was difficult to get enough for seed the following spring. There was then no tile-draining, except in the " Prairie Farmer," where we remember it was advocated at the time ; nor was there any education in selection and improvement of corn, as now. A curious result of that wet season was the



coming up of cotton-wood seedlings on all cultivated land, and where not pulled up they soon became thrifty trees. Many large trees about the homesteads of today date from that year.

The season of 1859 was propitious, and an abundance resulted, particularly of corn. The price had been naturally high for awhile — perhaps twenty-five cents — and much was expected by everybody. But the price went down, and stayed there; the following spring the Boy hauled corn away to Iowa City and to Washington, and received in either place twelve cents a bushel. At the present time sixty to seventy cents is paid, with one-fourth the distance to haul. Pork was correspondingly low; our recollection being that dressed hogs were not worth over two dollars per hundred pounds; one of our surviving friends of that time says “a dollar and a half.” Cotton was king then; corn had not yet come to the throne!

But this was the last of Alva Ellis’s farming. In the early autumn, after the hard summer’s work, he learned of the death of his brother Silas in Boone, Iowa. They had always been much attached, having been particular workers together; and the news seemed to depress him. In a few days he became ill; and a week later, Oct. 19, 1859, he died of blood-poisoning; exactly nine years after the death of his brother Henry in California, and himself in his thirtyninth year.

Thus went early and unexpectedly to his rest, an honest, hardy, God-fearing man; lamented not only by his family, but by all the community of which he was a part. Fifty years have since gone; and still, as

this little story of his life is told, there comes upon the heart anew the sense of loss of a father and a good man.

Such a loss must of necessity change almost entirely the fortunes and prospects of the family; nevertheless a brave struggle was made to carry on the work of the farm, and with partial success. All that could be done by mother and children enabled them to "keep even;" no gain was perceptible. In the next October, the younger son, Norton, in his sixth year, died of diphtheria,—the first case of that scourge in all the country around, and altogether new to the doctors.

The following year, 1861, brought the national convulsion of civil war. The yet new state of Iowa rushed into the conflict, by companies, regiments and brigades; until the working force of the farms and other occupations was very seriously depleted. The necessities of warfare stimulated production, and an inflated currency soon advanced prices and made trade active. State and municipal debts were incurred to pay bounties for enlistments, and later for the care of needy families, and taxes naturally increased. But the state continued to develop, and so general had been the increase of population that each year showed not only an increase of grain and cattle and hogs, but also a new crop of young men for the army. And it is worthy of note in this connection, that after the war Iowa was the first of all the States to get out of debt; which was fully paid, if we are not mistaken, in the early seventies.

In the midst of the time of war, a third visitation of death came to the Ellis home. This time, Laura,

in her fifteenth year, was taken, after a brief illness, on March 8th, 1863. She had superior faculties, and was a favorite among all the young people, by whom she was greatly lamented.

Leaving behind them their row of graves, the depleted family soon after removed to Iowa City, mainly for educational advantages. Ten years later the mother and daughters removed to Keota, a new railroad town in Keokuk county; and in the home there established, the mother, Mrs. Margaret Ellis, and eldest daughter, Sarah C. Ellis, yet remain.

FRANK O. ELLIS (72), only remaining son of the A. P. Ellis family, was in the Iowa State University about three years, and went to Boston at the end of 1868, and became accountant for his mother's brothers, in wholesale shoe trade. In 1877 he started business on his own account in Lynn, Mass., supplying shoe manufacturers with certain lines of goods, in New England and other States; continuing for about thirty years. The only public office he ever held was that of chairman or secretary of the School Board of Swampscott for seven years. Published from 1882 to 1891 a monthly, "The New England Evangelist;" the result of which experience was to make him entirely undenominational in church attitude. Attention now given largely to Bible study and teaching. Married in 1873, CELESTE I. PORTER of Swampscott, where their home has ever since been. Their children are:

- (1) EMILY PEARL ELLIS, 1875; silverware saleswoman in Salem, Mass.; lives with her parents. D. 1961

*By her request, this book is to be presented to the Genealogical Department of the Congressional Library, Washington, D.C.*

- (2) STUART PORTER ELLIS, 1878; commercial photographer, Swampscott; lives with parents.
- (3) CARL PALMER ELLIS, 1879; representative of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Boston; m. to ELIZABETH NORTH of Lynn, 1906; lives in Dorchester district, Boston.
- (4) HOWARD GARFIELD ELLIS, 1881; draughtsman for shoe machinery in Lynn; m. to EDITH FOSTER of Boston, 1909; lives in Saugus, Mass.

CLARA B. ELLIS (75), was a student in the Iowa State University; then a teacher; and in 1875 was married to DR. F. B. HOME, of Keota, Iowa. In 1888 they removed to Beloit, Kan.; where they now reside. Four children were born:

- (1) ALVA EARL HOME, 1878; Beloit; surveyor for Mitchell county; lives with parents.
- (2) ZELA BELLE HOME, 1886; teacher; m. 1909 to GEORGE W. McCLUNG, and lives in Jewell, Kansas.
- (3) MARY ELLIS HOME, 1887; accountant; lived with parents; d. 1907.
- (4) FRANK B. HOME, 1890; teacher; with her parents in Beloit.

EMMA LOIS ELLIS (77) was m. in Keota, Iowa, 1875, to ARTHUR E. STEWART; farmer and stockman, and they have ever since lived in that place. Their children are:

- (1) MYRTLE MAY STEWART, 1876; m. WILLIAM CHARLES FARMER, in 1902; and their children are: Francis, 1903; Mary Lois,

- 1905; Margaret Isabel, 1907; Florence Irene, 1908. Mr. Farmer is superintendent of the Government Indian School at Wetumka, Okla., where they now reside.
- (2) WARREN FRANCIS STEWART, 1878; farmer and stockman, with his father; Keota, Iowa.
- (3) STANLEY SEBERN STEWART, 1883; m. in 1907 to SARAH McNURLEN of Keota. Is a farmer and stockman with his father in same place.
- (4) EMMA LOIS STEWART, 1885; musician and teacher; with parents in Keota.
- (5) CLARA BELLE STEWART, 1888; musician and teacher; with parents in Keota.

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#### THE SILAS ELLIS FAMILY.

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- (46) SILAS ELLIS                    }  
      SOPHIA STENGER            }  
                                      } m. in Zanesville, O.,  
                                      } 1847.

Children :

(92) EMMA ELLIS, 1850; Adamsville O.

(93) NORTON A. ELLIS, 1854; Adamsville, O.

Silas Ellis was the particular chum of his elder brother Alva, whom he much resembled. Their real boyhood together was on the "Burtnett farm;" for after the removal to the Millwood farm they soon grew into the stature and work of men, where the work of men was much needed. The younger boys attended school after the removal; but we have an impression that these two had practically no further schooling, as the necessities of labor were so great. And as for Silas, it is remembered that school life

was not particularly interesting to him, so far as related to "book larnin'"; hence he was perhaps not conscious of any great loss. A memory of his school life is told, illustrative of this. The teacher of the time had a strict rule forbidding whispering between scholars, so that there should be no surreptitious telling one another about lessons. But Silas was "caught in the act" of whispering to another boy, and was forthwith called to account with the question, "Now, what was you asking him about?" With bashful reluctance, Silas finally confessed, "I was jest tellin' him, 'How many dogs did he have?'" It is believed that the unexpectedness of the answer excused him; with the admonition perhaps, "Not guilty, but don't do so any more!"

As before recorded, Silas had a much greater liking for tools and mechanics than for farm work. Promptly at twenty-one, as it would appear, he went to learn the trade of gun-smithing with Sam Stull in Millwood. How long he remained in this shop we do not learn; but it is said "he did not stay his time out" for some reason; probably being in a hurry to get to work for himself. So far as we remember to have heard, he then went to Zanesville, as may be supposed, to be among the Ballou cousins. He evidently visited his uncle Silas at Grand View, and his aunt Diana at Matamoras, as well as his sister Melissa Edgell at Newport, but at what date is unknown. As a memento of that visit we have in his own writing, given to his brother Alva in 1853, the instructions for building a cistern; which he is understood to have received from his uncle Silas at some time previous.

He married at Zanesville, if we are rightly informed, and afterward located in Adamsville, a small town a few miles distant, from which time if not before, he had a shop of his own, and where he thrived to some extent at least. But the town was not destined to grow, and property values ultimately declined to a fraction of their anticipated value.

When his brother Henry came of age in 1849, he joined Silas in Adamsville, to learn the trade. There must have been good prospects in the business at that time, or he would not have done this. But Henry did not remain long, being persuaded by Alva to join him in his California expedition, in the spring of 1850. So Silas continued the work alone, with reasonable content as we believe, until perhaps 1855, when his brother Alva's letters from Iowa seem to have filled his mind with hope of better things there, and to which state he removed about 1856. He settled in Boone, then called Boonesboro; on the Des Moines River, some forty miles from the present state capital. At that time the town must have been small, but work was plenty, and his letters showed great cheerfulness and expectation for the future.

But his time in Iowa was destined to be shorter even than his brother Alva's. He seemed to have good health for two years, but in 1859 he was made supervisor of highways for the town, and overworked himself in his conscientious example of public duty, so that he was prostrated by sunstroke. He rallied partially, but finally succumbed, dying on September 2 of that year, being a little less than thirty-seven at the time.

Thus preceding Alva by a few weeks, the two who

had been close to each other in sympathy all their lives, were not divided in death. And as we have written of the one, so of the other; he was a good man and father, worthy of the name. His widow lived nearly forty years in the same home, having several relatives in the neighborhood, and she died 1899.

EMMA ELLIS (92), daughter of Silas and Sophia, was married in 1868 to WINFIELD S. DEWOLF, (b. 1845, d. 1891); and they lived in Iowa and Indiana.

Children: (1) HARRY ELLIS DEWOLF, 1870; married, lives in Indianapolis, and is mail carrier for the State Capitol; (2) OPAL DEWOLF, 1874; m. JOHN H. WEIR in 1894; they reside in Los Angeles Cal., and have one daughter, Helen Vivian Weir, 1898. The widow, Emma Ellis DeWolf, lives with them. *read 1899.*

NORTON A. ELLIS (93), coming to Boone when he was perhaps two years of age, may be said to be almost a native of that place. He became a tinsmith and plumber, and engaged in merchandising, and has been for many years a prominent and useful citizen. Like his father, he has shown a tendency to mechanics and invention; and despite a less rugged health than that of some others, he nevertheless continues actively in business and public interest. And like one of Mark Twain's characters, it is to be recorded of him that "he never shook his mother." Her home and her interests were his until the last; and she lies buried as "Sophia, the mother of Emma and Norton Ellis." One regret may be permitted, that he has never been married, — yet.



## THE ALBERT ELLIS FAMILY.

- (47) ALBERT ELLIS            } m. in Mt. Vernon, O.,  
      SARAH H. ENCELL } 1848.

Children :

- (95) GILBERT JAMES ELLIS, 1849; Howard, O.  
(96) LOIS HELEN ELLIS, 1851;            “    “  
(97) JOHN ENCELL ELLIS, 1852;        “    “  
(98) ELMA E. R. ELLIS, 1868;        “    “

Like his eldest brother Alva, Albert Ellis remained on or near the father's Millwood farm. For perhaps two seasons the brothers rented land a mile westward, there being not yet enough cleared for them all; after which Alva returned to his own house as at first, and Albert settled in the Henry Babcock house, then vacant. Here they continued as partners on the father's land, until the removal of the Alva Ellis family to Iowa. Albert's wife Sarah taught the summer school of the district in 1850; and one of the Small Boy's keepsakes of those early days is a "Reward of Merit" to him from her, bearing their initials. Later in life she became a successful physician, and with the two daughters, settled in Knoxville, Tenn., where she died in 1900, at the age of seventy.

When the first call of President Lincoln was made for 300,000 volunteers, Albert Ellis responded, and joined with Alexander Cassil of the same county to raise a company. After preliminary disappointments, he set on foot a regular campaign of night meetings and speech-making in school-houses, and soon had a considerable roll of enlisted men. Albert was a

Justice of the Peace, and under orders from the Governor, all who signed the roll were forthwith sworn into the service; and his brother Lyman joined him at this time.

When the company election took place, Cassil was made captain and Ellis first lieutenant. The company was not yet full, but the new lieutenant was detailed and commissioned by John Sherman, (afterward Secretary and Senator), to complete the enlistment.

The company was mustered in as Co. A, 65th Ohio, and the service of the regiment was mostly under General Buell in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. The captain being promoted, the command of the company devolved upon Lieutenant Ellis for about a year and a half, when he was broken down by typhoid, and eventually resigned his commission, being no longer fit for service. Afterward however, he regained a good degree of health, and has now outlived by ten years any of his brothers or sisters, and is the sole survivor of the ten children of Benjamin Ellis Jr. He was married a second time, about 1903; and has since resided principally in Madison, Ind.; but more recently in Lafayette, Ind.

GILBERT J. ELLIS (95), was graduated from Bethany College, and has ever since been in the ministry of the gospel. His pastorates have extended from New York to Iowa, and are always well spoken of; as once was said of him to the writer by a veteran of the pulpit: "A good, able, conscientious, safe man." He was a born preacher, and probably has never thought seriously of doing anything else. When the Small Boy was yet small, and

Gilbert was smaller, we remember his mother or her sister telling of his being mounted on a chair or some other convenient rostrum, from which he was vigorously exhorting some sizable boys around him, in substance: "You, B—; and you, L—; and you, A—; if you don't repent, *you'll all go to h—!*" The "visible results" or "accessions" following this maiden effort are not recorded.

In his early ministry he was located in Cato, N.Y., where in 1882, he was married to MARY J. HARRIS. Two daughters were born: JEAN ENCELL ELLIS, 1883, at Portsmouth, O., and who died at Davenport, Iowa, 1886; and ESTHER ELLIS, 1891, at Galesburg, Ill. The family is now resident at Carrollton, Ill.

JOHN ENCELL ELLIS (97) was a salesman, and in 1882 or '83 was married in Cleveland, Ohio, to MAUDE MEHURIN. He visited the writer in Massachusetts in 1876, and is remembered as very good-looking, and distinctively of the Ellis type of the preceding generation. He died in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1890. Two children, Bruce and Bessie, died in infancy. KIMPTON MEHURIN ELLIS, born in Columbus, Ohio, 1887, is said to have gone to California with his mother some years ago, and definite whereabouts are not known.

LOIS HELEN ELLIS (96) is a successful physician in Knoxville, Tenn. The date of locating there is not given.

ELMA E. R. ELLIS (98) is a teacher of ancient languages in a collegiate institution in Knoxville.

THE ANDREW ELLIS FAMILY.

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ANDREW ELLIS (50) was a farmer with his father, and also learned carpentering. He worked for a time at this in Newport, living there with the Edgells. In this place he was first married, to LUCY FERGUSON, about December, 1854. They at once went to his father's place at Millwood, and lived in the house just vacated by the Alva P. Ellis family. Two children were born, Angenora and James B., both of whom died young; the first before, and the second after the mother Lucy, who died 1858.

In 1859 Andrew married ELIZABETH SPINDLER of the Jelloway neighborhood, and we believe they lived nearly all the time on the Millwood farm with his mother Lois, until her death in 1864. Two sons were born to them; (99) WILLIAM ALBERT ELLIS, 1862; now of Marshalltown, Iowa; and (100) NORTON SPINDLER ELLIS, 1867; now of Ankeny, Iowa. The mother, Elizabeth, died in 1870; and Andrew afterward married her sister, LOUISA J. SPINDLER, who bore three daughters, (101) MARY CHERRILL, 1871; and (102) LUCY PEARL, 1879; who are mentioned later with the sons; and (103) JENNIE P., 1874; who died 1877.

After the distribution of the Benjamin Ellis estate, Andrew Ellis lived in Millwood and later in Monroe Mills, if we remember rightly. But he had been for years looking toward Iowa, to which his elder brothers had gone many years before. Finally, in 1883, he removed to the vicinity of Melbourne, Iowa, and as we remember him, was ever after an enthusi-

ast over prairie farming. He worked at his trade of carpentering perhaps more than at farming, being in his later years not a strong man. Afterward he built a house for himself in the town, and he was largely instrumental in the erection of a church building where he was a leader until his death in 1894.

Probably few men are as well beloved of kindred and acquaintance as was Andrew Ellis. His enemies, if there were any, were few; but his friends were legion. His nature was gentle and sympathetic, and his heart on the right side in everything. Honorable and industrious, his influence was always unto righteousness about him, and his departure was a marked loss in any community where he lived. The widow, Louisa J. Ellis, died in 1901.

Of the surviving children of Andrew Ellis, here mentioned in order, is first :

WILLIAM A. ELLIS (99), who came with the family to Melbourne in 1883; and in 1887 was married to ELMINA L. STOUFFER. Their home is near to where his father first settled, and it would seem hard to find a finer part of the country in which to live; almost in the exact center of the state. Corn, cattle, hogs and horses, at good prices, tell the story of a prosperous farm; but the best of the products are the following children :

(1) GLENN ANDREW ELLIS, 1890; (2) MARY ESTELLA, 1892; (3) RUTH FRANCIL, 1896; (4) HAROLD VERNON, 1898; (5) HOWARD RAYMOND, 1900; (6) RONALD ELMER, 1907.

No wonder Iowa is a great and rich State !

NORTON S. ELLIS (100) was for some years with his father and brother on their farm near Melbourne, and in 1889 was married to EMMA A. PARKE. They have lived as far west as the Pacific coast; changing locations for the sake of Norton's impaired health. He is a carpenter, and has worked mostly at this of late years, as we understand; but also has been much engaged in electrical construction work. The family now resides in Ankeny, Iowa; some ten miles from Des Moines. The children born are:

1. LOLA MAE ELLIS, 1891; died 1896.

2. EDNA PEARL ELLIS, 1893. *Alon B. failed 1900*

MARY C. ELLIS (101) was married in Melbourne in 1904, to DAVID B. TROXEL of that town. He is an all-round mechanic of Indiana birth; and mostly engaged in wagon building and repairing in a thoroughly-equipped shop, where he can build anything, from a boy's sled to a threshing machine. And in the house is one baby, ESTHER TROXELL, 1908; and she is the finest baby——, well, in that house!

LUCY P. ELLIS (102) was married in 1902, to F. M. TAYLOR, and removed to Estavan, Sask.; and one son, MERRILL HOWARD TAYLOR, was born there, 1905. The Taylors are developing a large farm in the midst of the great grain region.

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#### LYMAN ELLIS FAMILY.

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LYMAN ELLIS (51) returned from army service in 1865, and in 1866 was married to ELIZA J. GRAHAM, near Howard, Ohio. One daughter was born, EDNA ELLIS (104), 1870; who was married in 1895 to ELI A. WOLF, a merchant in Howard.

If we rightly remember, Lyman Ellis was a hardy young man, and in the later years of his father's life came to be a worthy worker on the Millwood farm. We do not remember seeing him in school after 1852, when he was about fifteen, but was among the big boys in plowing, haying, wood-cutting and ball playing. In a sheep-wash in Owl Creek in '53 or '54, the Small Boy remembers seeing him "tussling" with a big wether, and gradually sinking until only the top of his head was visible. He was nearly drowned as we have since been told, but we did not realize it at the time.

An unusual experience happened to him when perhaps ten years old. He was running from the barn to the house after dark, to pass through a gateway which he supposed to be open, but a single rail or bar had been put up, which he struck in great force upon his mouth. Two upper front teeth were knocked out, but a little later were found by his mother and brother Alva, with the aid of a lantern. They were replaced, and though somewhat discolored, remained in use to the end of his life.

After the death of his father in 1858, he continued at his farm work until the call to arms in 1861. He was now twenty-four, and when his brother Albert was enlisting men, he joined his company in October. He was made sergeant, and was a good soldier; and between '61 and early '64 he was in three hard-fought battles without a scratch. He was furloughed about February, '64, and came home to see his mother Lois, who was in failing health, and who died in March, while he was with her.

Returning to the army "for three years, or until the end of the war," he was severely wounded at Franklin, Tenn., on Nov. 30, 1864. A terrible enfilading fire was raking his regiment, balls plowing the ground, spitting trees and dropping men all about him, when he received a ball through the thigh. After falling, an order was given to carry him off, but he refused, saying "Take care of yourselves boys! I'll get away somehow." And after stuffing his wound with a handkerchief after the enemy passed over him, he crawled and dragged himself to the river, hoping somehow he might be able to cross to where he could receive attention. As though providentially arranged, as he said, "there stood a banged little mule, with a yard of rope hanging to his neck;" and by aid of a log or stone he managed to climb on his back and forded the river. Here he was just in time to get on the last train for the hospital at Nashville.

He did not again see active service, although he returned to Kentucky after having been at home two months; when in a letter to the writer, he says, "The Ellis family is scattered, and Home for me is gone; perhaps I may never have a home again."

After being mustered out that same year, 1865, he came back to Knox county, and we think was for a time with Andrew in business at Monroe Mills. Later he bought a farm there, on which he lived until his death, about 1890. His widow lives with the daughter in Howard.




## ADDENDA, ETC.

Corrections and additional information are requested from all who can furnish the same. They will be noted, and perhaps printed as a supplement.

It will be a favor to hear from all who receive this book, as to whether it is satisfactory, or otherwise.

The insertion of the prospectus pages at the close of the volume will show to any in later years how the work was undertaken.

It is hoped that the blank pages provided will be utilized by writing in an accurate detail and account of the family to which the book shall come.

 A considerable debt is incurred by the writer, above the liberal contributions of those named below. It is hoped that others receiving the volume will be moved to liquidate this, to the honor of the family name.

Any descendant desiring a copy need not hesitate to send for it, or to order it sent to some one. If possible it will be done, as extra copies will be printed. Copies should be put in local and historical libraries, in the neighborhood of the families concerned.

A large amount of incidental detail, portraits, &c., is omitted; because of limited funds; condensation and omission have been necessary.

This little volume is made possible by the contributions of Gilbert J. Ellis, William A. Ellis, Norton A. Ellis, Leander A. Ellis and sons, Mrs. Clara B. Home and family, Mary E. Jacobs, and Mrs. Melissa Osborn. Others may participate as suggested above.

It has been accepted by the writer, that the first Benjamin Ellis family came from Richmond to Watertown; although we have nowhere a statement to that effect. The circumstances and recollections make it seem almost certain that the family came from Watertown to Newport, as assumed; and yet there is more than a possibility that they lived in some other place in New York, and came from thence to Newport. The twenty years between 1788 and 1808 are therefore not definitely accounted for at this time, 1909. E.







The author of "Millwood", Frank O. Ellis  
was a descendant of

John Ellis of Rehoboth, Mass. and  
his second wife, Mary Martin Horton,  
eldest child of Edward Martin and  
Rebekah (daughter of Jathriel and Sarah  
Smith) Peck), of Rehoboth.

Edward Martin's father, Ephraim  
Martin, Born 2-7-1678, Swansea, Wales,  
married Thankful Bullock (daughter of  
Samuel Bullock, Sr.) 10-18-1699 and  
settled on a farm near Rehoboth, and  
lived in a house standing a little  
north of the burying ground.

Mary Martin Horton was the widow  
of Simeon Horton. She and her second  
husband, John Ellis, settled in Richmond,  
New Hampshire, about 1766.

See History of New Hampshire;  
by Wm Basset, 1884. P. 334.

Also Vital Records - Rehoboth, Mass.

4) Benjamin Ellis, (Sr) and his wife,

Ruth Ingalls, (5)  
daughter of Thomas Ingalls  
and his wife, Sibyl Carpenter, of  
Rehoboth, and Richmond, N. H.

5) Benjamin Ellis, Jr. and his wife

6) Lois Palmer, daughter of Elijah Palmer  
and his wife, Melie Horton (44) (Page  
married in Watertown N. Y.

(8) - (45) - Alva Palmer Ellis and  
his wife, (71) Margaret Sanders, daughter  
of Benjamin Sanders, born in Georgia  
parents of the author of this book

(72) Francis O. Ellis (Frank) and  
his wife, Celeste I. Porter, were  
married in Swampscott, <sup>Mass.</sup> and spent  
the rest of their lives there. They were  
parents of four children, Stuart Porter  
Ellis, Carl Palmer Ellis, Howard  
Farfield Ellis and Emily Pearl  
Ellis, who presented "Millwood" to  
his library.

Frank O. Ellis died in 1910.

Benjamin Sanders' wife was  
Sarah Wilkins  
born 1792, in Little Egg Harbor, N. J.

To anyone interested in applying for membership in the N. A. R.

Rights to membership have been established through the records of John Ellis and Henry Ingalls, both of Rehoboth, Mass. and Richmond, R.

A niece of F. O. Ellis (72), Mrs. H. W. Harbough (nee Home), and her daughter, Margaret Harbough Klawohn, are members of the N. A. R. through proof of army service of these two men. See Pages 10-11.

"The Millwood farm" Page 40 is split into two parts by the highway connecting Millwood to Kinderhook? Gambier and Mt. Vernon.

It is owned by a Mr. and Mrs. Taggart. All of the buildings created by Benjamin Ellis are gone - but - a house built by Mr. Taggart's grandfather must occupy the spot where Benj. Ellis lived. A new spring house (31); same spring





Emily Ellis's main purpose in placing  
"Millwood" in this library was the  
hope of lending genealogical  
assistance to other "members of the  
Ellis family — far removed, in time  
from John Ellis, of Rehoboth.

Through the "Genealogical Helper" of  
Logan, Utah, contact has been made  
with Mrs. L. Sue Pace Hicks of Dinuba,  
California. Mrs. (Ralph) Hicks, has furnished a  
record of her connection with John  
Ellis, of Rehoboth, via his son John.  
(20)

John Ellis of Rehoboth and his second  
wife, Mary Martin Horton, widow of  
Dimeon Horton; John Ellis, Jr. and  
his wife, Rachel Marsh; Edward Mart  
Ellis and his wife, Martha (Patty) Fo  
Martin Ellis and his wife, Sophia El  
Viola Sophia Ellis and her husband  
Joshua Bloomer; Viola Sophia Bloom  
and her husband, Merion Elliott Pace.  
L. Sue Pace and her husband,  
Ralph Otto Hicks.

Now, <sup>belonging</sup> to the same family as the one  
mentioned in the "History of the State of New York"  
was an ancestor of the same name, John Ellis.  
John Ellis, of the same name, was the son of  
Laigton of Elm (the name of the house) came  
over in the ship "The Golden Age" in 1635.  
See "The History of the Colony of New South  
Colony," by Raven. The name of the ship is the  
arrangement of John Ellis, of the same name, with  
the name and history of the ship.  
Children.

In "Freeman's History of the State of New York"  
Volume 2, Second Edition, page 12.











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